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Yeltsin Continues North American Visit

Russian President Boris Yeltsin continued his U.S. and Canadian visit. ITAR-TASS notes that during Yeltsin's talks with U.S. President Bush, the two leaders stressed "their adherence to the elimination of chemical weapons at the global level." The Russian leader visited Wichita, Kansas, before beginning his Canadian visit on 18 June.

Commission Begins Search for POW's

ITAR-TASS reports that a joint U.S. statement was issued on the commission charged with determining the fate of POW's and MIA's in Russia. Within this framework, a U.S. Embassy official and three members of the joint commission flew to a prison camp in the northern Russian city of Pechora on 18 June in search of "clues about the fate of an American citizen allegedly held there." "No trace of U.S. POW's was found...in the Pechora Camp". "The head of the group expressed gratitude to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Government for making the trip possible."

Azerbaijani Armed Forces Advance

The Azerbaijani Army retook seven villages in Mardakert and "established full control over the Shaumyan region" reports Moscow International. ITAR-TASS notes that a state of emergency was introduced in Nagorno-Karabakh for one month. The disputed enclave's parliament "sanctioned the beginning of a guerrilla war in the region against Azerbaijani armed militants."

INTERFAX reports that "several Armenian field commanders" threatened to blow up the Sarkhan hydroelectric station in the Mardakert region to avoid capture and stop the Azeri attack. Armenian Headquarters in Nagorno-Karabakh denied plans to blow up the power station, but admitted "certain uncontrolled units may be planning the action and called on them to refrain from it," reports ITAR-TASS. Ecology "experts" noted that the consequences could be "catastrophic" and cause "unrepairable damage" to the ecology of Transcaucasia.

Baku Radio reports that the Azerbaijani president ordered a state of emergency in Agdzhabedinskiy Rayon "in an effort to stop mass demonstrations" and eliminate "the threat to citizens by the activities of the illegal armed groups" there.

Estonia Introduces Kroon; Leaves Ruble Zone

Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi stated that the nation's monetary reform committee has decided that "starting from 20 June 1992 the Estonian kroon will be valid on the territory of the Republic of Estonia as the only legal tender," Tallinn Radio reports. Estonia is "the first of the states that once belonged to the USSR" to "decisively extract" itself from the ruble zone. The Estonian Bank will fully guarantee the kroon with gold and convertible foreign hard currency reserves.

Yeltsin-Bush Accords Cause Military 'Uneasiness'

*OW1906081892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0744 GMT 19 Jun 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Colonel General Boris Pyankov, acting First Deputy Commander of the United Armed Forces of the CIS, feels that the START agreement [as received] signed by Boris Yeltsin and George Bush in Washington "is the product of common sense." However, Pyankov said in an interview with INTERFAX correspondent Marina Chernukha, "something still causes uneasiness among the military." Mainly, Russia is reducing the most powerful of its weapons—the ground-based surface-to-surface missiles. The Americans, who always preferred an underwater nuclear fleet with Trident missiles, will reduce them completely. [sentence as received] "We are taking a risk", said General Pyankov, "but we are doing so consciously as we see a true movement toward disarmament on the American side".

At the same time Pyankov feels the fears that the dismantling of nuclear warheads will seriously hurt the Russian economy are unfounded as keeping them in nuclear arsenals is also very costly.

Military 'Regrets' Elimination of SS-23s

*LD1706223192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Jun 92*

[Correspondent A. Ostrovkiy report; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Americans promise us their help in disarmament; we need money and special centers. Here is a unique documentary by our missile specialists on what the elimination of missiles looks like:

[Ostrovskiy] It already has been four years since the treaty between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of medium- and short-range missiles came into force. It marked the beginning of the real process of disarmament. Over a period of a year and a half short-range missiles, launchers, and the means of transport for them have been eliminated in respect of the Ground Troops. The sale of metals, automobile chassis, and missile canisters have made it practically possible to compensate for the outlay on the process of eliminating them.

[Begin recording: V. B. Leshchenko, chief of the center for ensuring implementation of the treaty] At present, the main task is to prepare the Ground Troops to fulfil the treaty on reducing conventional armed forces. [video shows convoy of missile carriers on the move, charges being placed into missiles, an explosion, military official speaking] [end recording]

Incidentally, in line with our habit of doing things in a sweeping manner, during the last stage of disarmament we destroyed unique OTR-23 Oka [SS-23] operational-tactical missiles that have a range of up to 400 km. The military, which knows about missiles, regrets this very much and says that the OTR-23 Oka missiles did not come under the treaty.

New Concept in Nuclear Plant Safety Devised

*LD1706192792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1546 GMT 17 Jun 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Sorokin]

[Text] Moscow June 17 TASS—Russia has developed a new concept of nuclear power engineering aimed to increase the safety of its nuclear power plants.

Atomic stations which do not meet the requirements set by the International Atomic Energy Agency will be shut down before the end of their lifetime, Anatoliy Zemskov, a leading specialist of the Rosenergoatom concern, said.

The concept calls for a two-stage development of nuclear power engineering in Russia. The first stage, called "renovative," aims to modernise and increase the safety of operating nuclear power plants and build new ones which will be put into operation at the second stage between 2000 and 2010, Zemskov explained.

Russia plans to cooperate with other countries in overhauling its nuclear power plants, primarily with the United States. The U.S. Government recently decided to grant 25 million U.S. dollars to former Soviet republics to improve the safety of their nuclear reactors.

Gorbachev Visits Israel, Meets With Leaders

LD1506101992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0905 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhurdo]

[Text] Tel Aviv, June 15 TASS—Ex-President of the former USSR Mikhail Gorbachev who arrived on a private visit to Israel on Sunday [14 June], met Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on same day.

According to participants in the meeting, the head of the Israeli Government praised the personal role played by Gorbachev in letting Soviet Jews emigrate to Israel and in restoring diplomatic relations between the two countries after a quarter-century interruption.

Shamir praised Gorbachev's activity as one of the initiators of the Madrid peace conference on the Middle East.

Asked whether the Muslim republics of the Central Asia are likely to rally with Arabs against Israel, Gorbachev said he believed that those states were following "a balanced line" and "very much interested in peace in the Middle East".

The ex-president touched on the problem of anti-semitism. He expressed confidence that anti-semitism is declining in the Commonwealth countries and has been mainly preserved in some "out-of-the-way corners". As democracy gets stronger in the former USSR, the reactionaries will retreat, Gorbachev said.

Diplomat Defends Gorbachev's Trip to Israel

OW1706130892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1218 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An executive of the Russian Foreign Ministry specializing in the Middle East problems said that a number of Arab newspaper had assailed Gorbachev with unfair accusations in connection with his visit to Israel.

Mikhail Gorbachev is a Russian citizens like all of us, he said. He went to Israel for a private visit which can neither influence the results of the parliamentary elections in Israel, nor be perceived as a demonstration of support for the Shamir government, said the Russian diplomat.

Gorbachev Interviewed on International Affairs

92AE0423A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jun 92 pp 6-7

[Report on and interview with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev by 'Uthman al-'Amir with Sami 'Imarah as translator, in Moscow: "Gorbachev to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in First Interview With Arab Newspaper: 'Saudi Stance Unifying Factor in Central Asian Republics; Gulf Crisis Left Many Complexities for Historians To Unravel'"]

[Text] An interview with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev these days has many implications. Briefly stated, the man is vigorously banging on doors, prepared to reenter the political battle surrounding the Kremlin. Whether he will succeed or fail is another issue.

The interview was supposed to have taken place at the beginning of this year. I actually went to Moscow, but Gorbachev failed to come to the office. His aides explained that he was going through an "unusual mood." He would not always come in, canceled his appointments at any time, might snap at his aides, and sometimes blew up at them for no reason.

What was the reason for such a mood?

An informed observer told me it was a phase most retired politicians go through when they first leave the political arena. It is the phase of "feeling weightless," as if leaping from a speeding vehicle. How much more so in the case of a politician of the qualities, potential, and size of a man of history who led scores of millions of people, 15 countries, and who indeed demolished a world-class political and economic temple in its entirety, in hopes of establishing a new arrangement. Then, having been a figure who infused the world, preoccupying everyone, he found himself outside the political arena, if only temporarily, wrestling with another politician whom no one expected to reap the fruits watered by perestroyka. What was worse, he became an object of suspicion called in for investigation by the public prosecutor.

In proportion to Gorbachev, the public prosecutor is a young man of little stature.

At the time, one of those involved says, his nerves were shaken. He could not stand anything. Journalist Aleksandr Likhutal, his office director, says he is now better than he has ever been. "Some months ago, in January and February, he was in anguish. However, only a few months earlier he had suffered the greatest shock any leader can have and live to actually witness—the shock of 'betrayal by comrades.' Gorbachev says, 'The betrayal was the most difficult thing I have ever lived through personally. Its specter will pursue me for the rest of my life.'"

Even if that betrayal were totally forgotten, he would never forget betrayal by his life-long friend Lukyanov, chairman of the Council of Supreme Soviets, of whom he says, "I had pinned my hopes on him. I believed he would never be a traitor, never betray the cause, never betray me, 40 years of cordial relations since our school years."

The shock, loss of the presidency, then being investigated by the public prosecutor.

Recovering from the shock, he realized that as a retired politician he had to deal with his reality in an acceptable manner.

During our dinner together at the Savoy Hotel, his journalist advisor concludes, "He is another person. He was nervous at first, feeling despondent and frustrated. He had lost many of his responsibilities, but he is now stronger than ever."

Having recovered from his shock, "Gorby" now comes to his office at 1400 to meet those visiting him at the Gorbachev Institute in the heart of Moscow. The institute occupies several floors in the huge building that was formerly the home of the Social Relations Institute of the Communist Party's Central Committee. It was carefully selected to give him the feeling that he is still in the Kremlin. A red carpet leads you to his small office.

But what is this carpet, compared to that building and those salons one sensed and touched immediately upon entering the Kremlin and heading for Gorbachev's office with such majestic pomp just one year ago?

There is no comparison between my visit to his Kremlin office in 1990 and these offices. The salutation "Mr. President," which his supporters and visitors still use in addressing him, and whose echoes resound throughout the building, is the sole similarity.

When not in the office, he is at home writing his memoirs. He has a daily agenda in which he records everything that happened to him.

He says to me, "I have finished the first chapter of my memoirs. I recorded everything in them." One of his aides says that to do his writing he is making use of his archives and those who assisted him. "It will be a great stroke, because they are the most important memoirs of all."

He receives 50 to 100 letters a day from all over the world, but he does not read all of them, only those containing important matters.

Gorbachev finishes his business, receives his office visitors, and then spends 30 minutes in the car returning to spend the evening with Raisa, the children, and grandchildren.

Gorbachev's weakness for his family and wife, Raisa, showed clearly as he looked through her book, published in Arabic by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper.

When I gave him the book, he examined it and the pictures with interest. He said that Raisa would be very happy with this book, that it is an excellent thing. "Look at her picture here. She looks very young in this picture compared to me. We took this picture before we were married."

I said, "You have beautiful taste in Raisa." He gazes at the pictures and then moves to another. "This picture was taken before graduation; this is another in Moscow; and that is another picture in the Caucasus. These pictures bring back a lot of memories, especially as I set about writing my memoirs."

Then he sighs, "This is how fast things in life change. We have to be ready for every twist and turn."

When I asked him about the grandchildren, he said, "They are in good shape now. That is the one good thing, I believe, that they still do not know what is happening today."

Uttered by the man who fashioned "perestroyka," the phrase certainly does not lack bitterness. It seems to symbolize his rejection of what is happening around him and the strained relationship he has with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, which reached its peak in the threat directed at him by the Yeltsin camp that he must keep quiet and not interfere in politics.

How could he not interfere in politics?

As he puts it, "Society has breathed the air of freedom. No creature can ever take this opportunity away."

The story is not one of a creature, however, but of the struggle that climaxed upon Gorbachev's return from his visit to America, and before that to Germany and Japan. At the time he received an amazing historic reception. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl welcomed him as if he had just arrived from the Kremlin. Former President Ronald Reagan and former Secretary of State George Schultz chaired the committee preparing for his visit. George Bush then gave him a presidential reception, and he received $3 million. Meanwhile, Yeltsin is preparing to visit America, and his camp is nervous. Yeltsin is justified in being nervous that he will not be treated in a manner commensurate with Gorbachev's treatment.

The relationship with Yeltsin is complex, one which some have called "a love-hate relationship."

The same day, the former president was listening to one of his advisors tell him of Yeltsin's decision to recall the black "Zil" automobile with the private phone and replace it with an ordinary car.

His close associates say he received the news with great sarcasm and a smile, losing neither his vitality nor his jovial spirit. Had this happened prior to the trip to America, perhaps the situation would have been different. The trip to America has certainly given him a new boost of morale. Washington, with all its successes and failures, its beautiful, pallid, and trivial aspects, still attracts the attention of the Russians. It has an unusually special ability to affect them. They look to it and from it for solutions to their complicated problems.

When the former president criticized his successor, he knew, for example, that Russian public opinion was talking about the need for more change in the present course of the state. In a recently-conducted opinion poll, 47 percent of those interviewed expressed their lack of confidence in the country's current leadership. Thirty-five percent said a radical new program was needed to reform present economic policy.

Strained Relationship With Yeltsin

This is where the interview started. It has to begin with the hot topic: Yeltsin and Gorbachev.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What kind of relationship is it, how is it now, and where is it headed?

[Gorbachev] I believe I tried to discuss this in the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, in my interview that was in fact a response to the statement issued by the Russian president's press office.

I think it would be irresponsible on my part and on his to put our personal relationship first. The essential thing now is to continue on the path of democratic transformation and reform. Everything else has to be subjugated to that. For this reason, there was very little that was new in what I told KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and what I said earlier. The essence of what I said at that time was that the situation is verging on disaster. The kolkhozes [collective farms] and the sovkhozes [state-owned farms] in the district of Stavropol (which Gorbachev governed until the end of the seventies) always had 20 million rubles, and sometimes 40 million, in the treasury. Now they have neither funds nor financial liquidity.

They are unable to purchase agricultural machinery and fertilizers. How could this happen at a time when the village can ask any price it wants for its food products? This goes back to the fact that the food and processing industries no longer take milk and meat at prices sought by the kolkhozes and the sovkhozes, despite the public's need for food. Why not? Because the public is unable to buy goods at the new prices. This is the result of totally freeing industry prices. What should a village do? Either it reduces production or it incurs repeated losses.

Is what happening now not laughable? State intervention in the agricultural sector is something that exists everywhere, and the issue has to be dealt with now. I expect very grave consequences in both the political and economic spheres. The present government is pursuing a course that fails to rely on systematic positions or defined priorities. Haphazard decisions are being taken for the purpose of creating a stir and for show.

Matters have to be conducted and action taken in accordance with a tactic that promotes transformations, rather than exposing them to danger. The main idea I want to get across to the president and the government in my interviews is that they must tend to the unification of all democratic movements in the interest of successful reforms.

In my interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA I expressed my great apprehension. I cannot even say that the government will be able to change things now. The sowing of many crops has been halted. Farmers have started getting rid of their livestock because they have lost confidence in what is happening now. This is a national problem that must be resolved, or everything will collapse.

In general, there is a lot of talk about the most ideal course. When we raise the issue of setting prices and promoting financial stability, one can say that this is sound as far as it goes, but it is only one phase of the issue. The conditions for promoting a stable financial situation and freeing prices have to exist.

Right now, I cannot see a comprehensive course that would convince one that tangible changes are taking place, even though I will say they have done some things.

Yeltsin's Reaction

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are you afraid, then, that President Yeltsin's actions, your disagreement, as well as growing opposition, will lead to more dictatorship?

I was reminded of his statement: "There is talk that our state is collapsing. It is not the state that is collapsing. Having now taken several centuries to form, it is alive, and it will stay that way. What is collapsing, however, is its control system. That system is in contradiction with the increasing need for growth, development, and democracy."

Gorbachev responded to the question saying:

[Gorbachev] I no longer come to this conclusion; I cannot say that. I do not have the justification, and I believe—and I hope that Yeltsin will not back down at this difficult stage from the democratic character of the transformations. The executive authority has to act effectively. This is an opinion, but at the same time, a slide into dictatorship must not be allowed to happen. This is just what I said. [passage indistinct] that Yeltsin and the government not make mistakes, and that he provide the opportunity for more effective action based on this support. We have to unify reformist forces, cooperate with them, and press ahead with reforms. I believe Yeltsin realizes this, as well as realizing that if he suddenly abandons the democratic path under pressure of events, in a time of trouble, it will be a defeat. It will not just be his defeat, but the defeat of the course we have taken, and are taking, in the framework of perestroyka.

Sense of Sorrow Over What Happened

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Now that the Soviet Union is a matter of history, you having been its last president, do you not have a sense of sorrow as you look back?

[Gorbachev] I continue to maintain my position. The world that was called Russia, or the Soviet Union, needed reforms—reforms at the state level, taking into consideration the formation of sovereign nations and states, but at the same time, pursuant to the logic of our time and the formation of nations over the last 10 centuries, there was a need for cooperation and joint coordination. This means that a new union had to be established. I said previously that refusal to form a new union of nations with the same sovereignty could cost a very dear price. It could lead us into wide-scale civil dispute. The basic thing is we could find ourselves in the situation of internal disputes—civil war. When the state is one, there are issues that do not get raised, but when it splits up into centers, into ethnic homes, they come to the surface. Everyone begins throwing around claims and curses, going back into history, not just a few decades, but hundreds of centuries. I expressed these fears earlier. They have been confirmed faster than I would have thought. What do I believe now? I believe that raising the slogan of resurrecting—the reunification of sovereign states is unrealistic. I think that it is now necessary to support the formation and format of sovereign states, and to help find new forms of cooperation among them. As to whether this cooperation is necessary, everyone realizes it is. That is why I am very satisfied that the process of establishing a Russian federation is taking place in Russia, even though it is slow, difficult, and not happening exactly the way we would like it to. If implementation of the economic reforms succeeds, they will have far-reaching importance for the entire system. Unification processes will then move more quickly, due to the great role Russia plays in this region of the world. Hence, we are now beginning to see signs indicating the need for politicians to realize they must cooperate. This can take new forms, but there has to be cooperation and mutual assistance. Politicians sometimes takes steps, as is the case in Ukraine which came under pressure from separatist forces, or on the contrary, as a reaction against steps and actions by Russia, to distance themselves from the arrangement or flamboyantly refuse to join in. But I believe that this is more a matter of tactics than anything else, and represents a reaction against the current situation. Deep-seated interests, however, generally dictate that all of these nations that were once part of the Soviet Union seek to preserve the arrangement. I would very much like the situation in Russia to stabilize, and quickly, for then other matters will move faster.

Could He Be Another De Gaulle?

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Mr. President, you are now out of power, yet everyone is talking about your forceful return to political activity. Do you not expect the Russian people to call you back as the French did de Gaulle, i.e., do you think your political future will resemble his?

I posed this question to him and recalled an article by a Russian journalist who said that [former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard] Shevardnadze's return to Georgia after losing his position in Moscow gives Gorbachev the green light.

With my colleague Sami 'Imarah next to me doing the translation, the president, who was seated at a table occupied by two of his aides, responded:

[Gorbachev] I have no such plans. My plans are to do what I am now doing. I am personally using my expertise, potential, and the relations I developed with world politicians in earlier years to work to bring about a change for the better in the world. This is as it relates to me personally. My other activities, which are no less important, include building and developing the organization (the fund). I am giving this a lot of attention, because policy is based on analysis and thorough research. Brainpower from every country has to be combined to find answers and present scenarios for politicians to choose from as they want in order to make decisions. We have to remove danger from politics so that major mistakes are not made in any country. As a result of my bitter experience, I myself know what that means. I know what it means to make mistakes in making political decisions.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What advice would you give if you were asked to counsel developing countries?

[Gorbachev] I believe we have to search together, determinedly, to find new ways of establishing the new world order. I believe that issues vary greatly as to stages and planes. Firstly and fundamentally, these nations themselves fail to solve their problems. I believe this represents a joint responsibility and duty for all nations and civilizations. Beyond that, we have to start with the seven major [industrialized nations] at the level of the United Nations, and other international cooperation mechanisms and instrumentalities, to internationalize all the issues I mentioned and provide the entire international community, not just the major seven, the opportunity to determine the ways in which civilization will advance. The United Nations is perhaps the best instrument for accomplishing this. But I also believe that the international body itself is in need of regional arrangements of cooperation in the fields of economics, security, and environmental protection. For this reason, I am appealing for the creation of such arrangements in major regions of the world. I think that the Middle East peace conference will ultimately help to bring about such an arrangement, not just a security arrangement, but one of cooperation as well, because security cannot be assured in the absence of cooperation. There are other closer issues, such as eliminating centers of crisis in all areas of the world. Thus I greatly support the efforts being expended in the framework of the international peace conference. Both parties have to show patience and understanding.

Turning to Yugoslavia, cooperation with respect to these countries in the UN Security Council and European frameworks has to be considered essential today. The Yugoslavian experience teaches us, however, that chaos has to be avoided; one must not accept the aspirations of only part of the overall totality. Organic solutions must be put in place. One must say, frankly, that the hasty steps taken by some western countries in recognizing Slovenia and Croatia heightened the pace of this process and brought it to the point of extremism. Thus, I do not agree with those who now wish to place all the blame on

Serbia alone. This would be a very naive understanding of the problem. Here one has to analyze the entire situation very objectively. Each party must be given its due. If we continue to analyze the causes of the disputes that led to the collapse of these states and brought them to dissolution this way, we will reach no correct conclusions from this experience. So, we have to analyze and serve the truth relentlessly. Only an objective analysis is capable of providing us with knowledge, otherwise the bitter experience of Yugoslavia will teach us nothing. Yet, this inflamed situation has to be halted. I believe we must address issues in a different way, in light of new circumstances, and return to the subject of North-South relations, relations between the rich and the poor. I go back to my basic thought, and say that we have no alternative but to invest a new dynamic and efficiency in every UN mechanism and strengthen this organization with new agencies and structures. UN cooperation with regional organizations will guarantee us a difficult road, but a necessary one, for systematizing relations. We have actually reached this stage. This is not fanciful; this is a present reality, and it is important that we realize it and know how to act. In any event, anyone who is determined to use force, give commands, or exploit and enrich himself at the expense of others, must know that this is unacceptable. Methods of forcing compliance are not restricted to military or political means, for there are economic, and even technological, pressures that can be brought to bear.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You are going to visit Israel. What will you say to the Israelis?

[Gorbachev] You know that I am not going on an official invitation, but one from two scientific centers. However, I think some contacts with representatives of government departments will take place. I believe that I have something to say. If they in Israel ask me—since you are asking me—I can tell you that Israel has the ability to play an important role in the process of moving towards peace and reaching a positive outcome for the conference, if it continues at a faster pace and its business proceeds with greater dynamism. I am confident that without reciprocal steps, mutual understanding, and a frank and fair admission of rights—political rights for every state—there can be no progress. There are matters the conference has to address. I believe that despite all the difficulties in the preliminary phase of the conference, the process is underway. Generally speaking, I welcome constructive stances by whatever side. No solutions can be reached without compromise, but the security of the Arab countries and of Israel must be guaranteed, and the Palestinian issue must be resolved. All of the accumulated problems must be settled. We have to continue in this direction. You should know that my position on this will not change, not in a week, not in a month. I, of course, am not taking part in the negotiations. However, my initial positions in principle, and my conception of how this process should take place, give me the basis for expressing this notion in this manner.

Gulf War

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Mr. President, let us go back just a bit and discuss the Gulf crisis. What decision could have been taken to avoid the outbreak of war?

[Gorbachev] Do you want me to go back before the dispute?

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Yes.

[Gorbachev] History dislikes hypothetical judgements. The reality has already occurred. I believe the correct lesson is the following:

First, the entire event was internationalized. This is true. I believe it is also correct to say that the aggressor got what he deserved, and he was also condemned politically. It is likewise correct that the UN Security Council prevented the destruction of the Iraqi state and the killing of Iraqi people. That would have been unacceptable, even though as leader of the Soviet Union I took the position of condemning the aggression and confronting it decisively. Finally, a group security arrangement must be created. You can see that I am more prepared to look to the future than to plumb the depths of the past, particularly since so many things have built up in the Middle East. In this crisis, that will keep historians working a very long time to unravel it.

Capitalist, Communist Systems

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] In your speech in America you criticized the capitalist system, and before that you criticized the communist system. Do you have an alternative you would like to achieve?

[Gorbachev] Of course, your interpretation of my speech is not precise. You have to ask me a tangible question in this connection. What do you want to hear from me and have me clarify? Right now I do not want to get into a discussion of capitalism and socialism. Nonetheless, I would like to say, since you posed the question, that I stress respect for the right of all people to self-determination. Let the people direct their own affairs, choose their system of government, and establish political and economic relationships. These are human rights. When people unite, let them make and declare their choices. This is part of their responsibility. This is the first point, philosophically. Now let us discuss it from the applied perspective. I said that we stand at the threshold of the 21st century. I believe that our choice—what I mean is the people's [choice]—will favor neither capitalism nor socialism, but will spring from a new thinking and civilization. This new civilization will absorb everything positive in our culture, as members of a single civilization, not as potential enemies and rivals. This interpretation summarizes my idea. I have analyzed the Stalinist model, Stalin's system, of organizing society, and it has proven to be a total failure. It led society down a deadend road. I would point out that some advanced capitalist countries have accomplished tangible results in the social field. They even have many of what we call socialist elements. Nonetheless, I am far from agreeing with any man that the capitalist system is the ideal model, and that no further movement can take place, and I know. I am a person with very realistic information regarding what happens even in the most advanced capitalist countries, to say nothing of the others. This is not the issue, however. Logic—historical logic—leads us to the need to ponder a new civilization based on new principles. Everything in this world is interrelated—cooperation, joint security, mutual security, the recognition of equality and freedom of choice, mutuality of interests, increased social justice, whether inside a country, between them, or in international relations, and care and support for poor countries, recognizing that they are an inseparable part of a single body. When one member is in bad shape, the disease affects the entire body. This mutual interrelationship among peoples and countries is the key to entering and building new international relationships. I believe that this is now understood. The transition phase is difficult and has risks, such as making new choices. Will we retrogress to the arms race and confrontation? Strategically, this would be a cowardly stance and mistaken.

Muslims, Soviet Union

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Mr. President, do you believe in a clash between Muslims and non-Muslims in Russia?

[Gorbachev] I do not believe so; what do you mean?

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Let us take what happened in Yugoslavia.

[Gorbachev] I do not believe so. The truth is that if disagreements, misdoings, and countercharges have appeared here and there, they are for the most part attributable to the fact that some areas were unequally developed politically and socially. In human terms, however, religious tolerance and harmony prevailed—also in their traditions vis-a-vis one another. This feature always characterized the country. You might want to say that certain steps in Stalin's time led to inflamed relations among some peoples, nonetheless at the popular level there was a high degree of tolerance and harmony. The problem is with intolerance. If one is speaking of fundamentalism, it does not exist.

There are scattered attempts to do something, but the danger does not exist. I think that we have to see that. At the most, these attempts will occur in the Central Asian republics. There are also strong tendencies towards cooperating with Russia. Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are the best examples of this. Turkmenistan is also about to sign agreements on multifaceted relationships with Russia. I believe that many positive things accumulated between the Central Asian republics and Russia during the years they lived together. I know the positions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I think. It is sympathetic to democratic transformation, and of course, with the freedom to develop of all religions, movements, religious values, and culture. I believe this is a very wise stance. Hence, I would like to point out that we know this position of Saudi Arabia. I believe that this is one of the factors that will assist the processes of unification in the Central Asian republics.

Arab World Visit

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There is another reason for President Gorbachev to feel the need to speak to the Middle East, and to the Arabs in particular, namely because he will be in Israel in a few days. He was determined, therefore, to say that he will not be going to Israel on an official invitation, but on a personal invitation from two scientific institutes where he will receive an award.

I confirmed that he will travel to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and some Arab countries in the fall carrying what he feels is an important peace plan.

Upon receiving me, he began his interview by saying:

[Gorbachev] I intend to make a tour through a number of Middle Eastern countries, beginning with a visit to Cairo. If this happens, I will consider it the realization of one of my most important hopes. I was in intensive contact with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, in particular, during the last years that I was president of the country. In general, I can say that our contacts at the governmental level resulted in very significant outcomes. To be specific, this occurred during that difficult time; during the most distressing period of war in the Gulf region and its aftermath. I believe that relations were cordial and warm. I do not know whether these relations are weaker now. It is hard for me to judge, but I can express my view of the need for these relations to remain warm. Not just that, they have to develop further. I think this will have great mutual benefit, whether at the bilateral level, or between Russia and the Arab countries in general. When we take into consideration how much has to be done in this area, it also implies an impact on all global politics generally, in a positive manner. In this regard, my perspective is unchanged. Circumstances may now be changing because of major transformations in Russia and because of the appearance of an entity in place of the Soviet Union. Will the Commonwealth endure, or will new institutions appear? Or will political or defense alliances appear, or those combining politics, defense, and economics? In general, life has much to reveal. Nonetheless, I believe that the processes and transformations now underway, however slow the pace and the dynamism, should not arouse fears in either Egypt or the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Traditional relations are very extensive, as are relations between our country and the Arab nations.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] I said to President Gorbachev, "Certainly no one has forgotten your stance in the Gulf War. As Saudis, we still remember that during King Fahd's reign and your term in power relations were restored between the two countries."

[Gorbachev] I have to say that, unfortunately, we were unable to realize our intentions to meet the servant of the two noble sanctuaries, for whom I have special admiration. Nonetheless, we were always in touch, exchanged correspondence, and dealt with matters very actively. Yet I believe the meeting will take place, even though in another capacity and under different circumstances. Therefore, I hope that through this newspaper you will convey to the servant of the two holy places, King Fahd bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, my best regards. I am looking forward to meeting him. I have met Saudi officials, including the king's nephew, Prince Saud al-Faysal, two or three times, or perhaps more. He was a nice person.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] My colleague Sami 'Imarah and I left the former president. We roamed the spacious Moscow streets. For the first time I saw Moscow, with all the events and struggles it has undergone, and the complications and problems it is going through, betray a broad smile, as if the summer radiates enough gentle serenity for it to smile, indeed to undress, revealing all of its charms one by one, like women during a beautiful summer.

Does Moscow have anything left to remove?

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] By special agreement, this interview will be published by the United Arab Emirates AL-KHALIJ newspaper and Bahrein's AL-AYYAM. Rights were also obtained to publish it in various languages, including English and Japanese "comprehensive global view" service [as published] to which more than 50 Western newspapers with a total of 36 million readers subscribe.

CIS Office Announces U.S. Warships' Visit

LD1806150992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1326 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow June 18 TASS—The U.S. "Yorktown" cruiser and the "Oubennon" destroyer will visit the former Soviet secret naval base of Severodvinsk on July 1-5, TASS learned from the CIS Naval Headquarters on Thursday [18 June]. It is the first visit of U.S. warships to the main base of the Northern Fleet since World War Two.

Russian and foreign correspondents can cover the visit. Accreditation will last till June 26. Address: Severodvinsk, Naval Headquarters, Press Centre. Telephones in Severodvinsk: 7-2810, 6-7395, 6-6819.

Central Asian Diplomats To Train in Turkey

LD1706092592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1214 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Fyoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 16 Jun—Today 29 diplomats from Azerbaijan and the Central Asian Turkic republics started their training at the Turkish Foreign Ministry. Prior to the training, they completed a two-month course in the Turkish language at Aegean University.

The training, which is to continue until 15 July, is composed of theoretical lectures and practical classes. The agenda includes conferences on various subjects such as the Cyprus issue and the European Community and the Turkic world, as well as on issues relating to NATO, the United Nations, the CSCE, human rights, diplomatic correspondence, and protocol. It is expected that representatives of the foreign policy departments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan will be received by Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin on Friday [19 June].

The training in Turkey of diplomats from the Turkic republics is provided for in the protocols on cooperation between the ministers of foreign affairs which were signed in February 1992 during the visit of the head of Turkey's Foreign Ministry to those republics.

International Baltic Conference Begins in Riga

LD1706134592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Issues on the decolonization of the Baltic states are being discussed at an international conference continuing its work in Riga today. Representatives from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and other European states are taking part in the conference. The security of the Baltic states and the whole of Europe, the economic aspects of the final decolonization of the Baltic states, the colonization of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia and the impact it made on their ecology, the problems of migration and demography—these are the reports on the agenda of the conference.

Russian Position on Black Sea Fleet Viewed

LD1906121592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS military writer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, June 19 TASS—The Russian delegation at the Russian-Ukrainian summit talks, due to open on Tuesday [23 June], finishes polishing its position on the question of the Black Sea Fleet, which is expected to become one of the toughest issues on the agenda.

No easy solutions are expected at Dagomys. President Boris Yeltsin of Russia recently told the top military that the talks with Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet were "proceeding with difficulty." The only issue that was settled was an agreement to refrain from unilateral actions until a compromise has been worked out on contentious issues.

The Russian position, which underwent slight changes, in essence remains the same: the Black Sea Fleet is part of the strategic forces and continues to ensure common interests of the Commonwealth countries on the southern flank, while Ukraine receives a certain part of vessels (up to 20 per cent) to ensure defense of its sea borders.

Ukraine, for its part, demands a lion's share of the vessels and the land-based infrastructure of the Black Sea Fleet, proposing to consider it as a compensation for Ukraine's contribution to creating the navy of the former Soviet Union.

ITAR-TASS was told by one of the well-informed leaders of the navy chief staff, who is a member of the Russian delegation, that "our side will proceed at the talks from the legal basis that has already been worked out at CIS summits and formulated in relevant agreements, including on the strategic forces of the Commonwealth."

In the meantime, an agreement was reached to reduce as much as possible the number of units belonging to strategic forces at a meeting of the council of defense ministers of the Commonwealth held in Moscow on May 26. It was decided to remove from the list a considerable number of air and naval units, including the Black Sea Fleet. Such a move, naturally, delivered a blow at Russian positions at the forthcoming talks. However, according to sources at the CIS Navy, the military are reexamining this position and are inclined to retain the Black Sea Fleet as part of the strategic forces.

Paradoxically, on the eve of the talks neither Russia nor Ukraine has a universal legal basis that could serve as a departure point for the Black Sea Fleet talks. Heads of state have yet to endorse the make-up of the strategic forces of the Commonwealth, the list of units and formations making up these forces. Nevertheless, the change in the position of the military will undoubtedly increase the chances of Russia to reach a compromise with Ukraine at Dagomys on favourable conditions for Russia and the CIS.

Withdrawal on Schedule; Helicopter Opens Fire

LD1906120392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1058 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, May 22 [date as received] TASS—Russian troops are being withdrawn from South Ossetia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan on schedule and without unwelcomed disruption, the FAX Military News Service reported, quoting sources from the Transcaucasian Military District.

However, a CIS helicopter had to open fire on a strongpoint near the Mamisantubani Village in South Ossetia on Thursday [18 June] which attacked the site of a helicopter wing. The Georgian Interior Ministry said one National Guard was killed and two wounded by the helicopter attack.

Deputy commander of the military district, Sufiyan Beppayev, stressed that attempts to involve the military into the conflict in the region are going on.

Majority of Officers Think Civil War 'Possible'

OW1706111092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Wednesday [17 June] at an expanded session of the Officers Meetings' Coordinating Council of the CIS Joint Armed Forces the chairman of the council captain of the 1 rank Aleksandr Mochaikin said that 76% of the Russian officers consider that a civil war is inevitable or possible. "The separation of armed forces" is the main cause which can lead to an armed conflict.

According to the chairman of the council, a growth of servicemen's politization is a dangerous trend as servicemen are uniting in different political parties.

The explosive situation in "the burning points" of the former USSR fosters social tension. "Humiliating of servicemen's human dignity gives birth to the necessity to overtake the situation in their own hands", he said. The situation is being aggravated due to the absence of a programme of social security of the servicemen. This year they received 3400 flats out 120 thousands envisaged. As a result 240 thousand of the servicemen families have no place to live.

Versions of Baltic Fleet Depot Explosion Cited

PM1706152392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report in "News" column: "Dangerous Parallels"]

[Text] You might have thought that the explosion at the Far East military depots would have considerably increased the caution and vigilance shown by the military. But no: An explosion has now occurred in the west, at the Baltic Fleet's consolidated depot. True, it occurred, fortunately, not so loudly, and there was no evacuation of the population; however, there were casualties.

According to the sailors' version of events, the nonsanctioned detonation of a powder charge occured while blank howitzer shells were being checked, as result of which one officer died and two others received moderately severe wounds. However, there is another view of the accident: The sailors were simply disarming the shells in order to subsequently sell the cases—nonferrous metal fetches a good price at the moment. And while doing so they also flagrantly breached safety regulations, that is to say, they were smoking. What actually happened will be established by the investigation launched by the prosecutor's office.

CIS Transformation Possibility Not Ruled Out

OW1806183192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The coordinator of the work group of the CIS council of heads of state and government, Ivan Korotchenya does not rule out the possibility of the "transformation of CIS into another organization of former Soviet republics". He has told IF [INTERFAX] that a future association may be based on a treaty of collective occurity. Korotchenya believes that in the near future tho "back-bone of six or seven states, active and full-fledged members of the Commonwealth may be formed". He believes that these questions are likely to be cleared up by the forthcoming meetings of the heads of state and government, as well as a concept of the CIS Charter, to be discussed by the CIS leaders in Moscow on the 6th of July.

Korotchenya said that "with the election of Azerbaijan's new President, Abulfaz Elchibey the participation of that republic in the CIS may change".

Currently only two CIS parliaments, those of Moldova and Azerbaijan, have failed to ratify the basic document on the emergence of the commonwealth.

Korotchenya said that Azerbaijan "can join this or that program of the CIS any time, even if it annuls the CIS agreements signed by President Ayaz Mutalibov on the condition it ratifies the Alma-Ata protocol to the agreement establishing the CIS. "The Commonwealth is a rather flexible structure", Korotchenya said.

Former Soviet Republics Sign Protocol on Trade

OW1806121292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1023 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The heads of trade and supply ministries of the 15 former Soviet republics have met in Bishkek and signed a protocol on the formation and regulation of trade and economic ties for 1993.

It was decided that by September 1 the countries should define and agree upon the volumes of mutual shipments for next year. Settlements will be based on free market prices.

The meeting turned down the proposal of the Russian delegation on a contract system of inter-republican relations because the degree of free market relations in the countries varies considerably as well as their economic possibilities. Besides, the speed of structural changes in agencies in charge of trade is different.

INTERFAX's Weekly 'Trade and Investment' News

OW1906041292

[Editorial Report] Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1836 GMT on 18 June, carries its weekly "Trade and Investment" feature which includes the following reports under the caption "Headline News:"

One of the reports deals with the auction of oil export quotas at the Nizhnevartovskaya oil exchange. Director of the joint stock company Nizhnevartovskaya Yarmarka Vladimir Dubinin is cited stating that quotas are sold "by country"; that oil will only be exported to specific countries. The report states that oil export quotas for 800,000 tons of oil were sold to Bulgaria and India, at an average of 1,500 rubles per ton, and that these two countries also received 100,000 tons in oil export quotas on 5 June for between 3,000 and 3,500 tons of oil per ton. It was stated in the report that the Ministry for Foreign Economic Ties is planning to sell export quotas worth 2 million tons of crude oil by auction "in the near future."

Another report deals with a decree drafted by Russia's Ministry for External Economic Ties entitled "On Procedures To Be Followed in Attracting Foreign Credits." The report states that the objective of the decree is "to place a mechanism for using the credit lines at a time of the introduction of a single market exchange rate of the ruble." The report says that the decree makes the Finance Ministry responsible for "overall control over the utilization of the credits." However, the article also states that the term of utilization and repayment of the foreign credits has to be approved "both by the Finance Ministry and the Economics Ministry."

An article entitled "Uzbekistan Attracts Investment for Gold and Mineral Mining" deals with that republic's efforts to draw foreign investment to the mining industry. Mr. Tulkun Shoyekubov, chairman of the State Commission, states in the report that "the total value of proved mineral resources in the republic is in excess of $310 bn. [billion] and potential reserves are estimated at being worth 2-3 times as much."

The report itself states that total gold reserves in the republic "are estimated at 2,5-3,000 tons, of which some 1,000 tons are suitable for extraction, if at least $7 mn. [million] is invested in the gold and other mining industries per year."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Jun

LD1906065592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0642 GMT 19 Jun 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, June 19 TASS—Newspapers highlight today the first official visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the United States. "There are encouraging prospects for our cooperation," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes, commenting on the signing of 39 Russian-American documents. "The accomplishments in the military sphere are of tremendous importance. Only dilettantes can say that we have lost or made some concessions to the United States during the talks. 100-200 missiles mean nothing today. What really matters is that general security is being consolidated, the enemy image is disappearing and the atmosphere of partnership and comprehensive cooperation is being created."

Our victory consists, among other things, in the following: we did not even specify how many missiles each of the countries will have in the long run. Thus we won the confidence of Americans, on which so much depends today", KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes, analysing the treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive armaments, signed in Washington.

According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, "the documents signed in the U.S. signify a history-making change in Russian-American relations." In the opinion of academician Yevgeniy Velikhov, expressed in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, "this is not so much the great disarmament, as the significant fact of changing the relationship between the U.S. and Russia and joining the world community by the latter. Perhaps, for the first time ever the American and Russian presidents stated that they are giving up the pursuit of 'power parity.' They have achieved other parity: they have paved the way to partnership in a military-political alliance," Velikhov said.

Newspapers give wide coverage to the situation in the hotbeds of tension on the territory of the new Commonwealth. The information of the past several days about the scope and forms of combat operations in Nagorno-Karabakh gives grounds for saying that it is not a conflict, but a war, although it has not been declared officially, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes. Quoting a statement of the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that "as a result of the offensive of the Azeri army, unprecedented by its scope, a critical situation was created in Nagorno-Karabakh. The very existence of the young republic has been called into question." A major defeat suffered by the Armenian self-defence forces in the Shaumyan district of Nagorno-Karabakh may have both military-strategic and political consequences for Armenia, a correspondent of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes. It boosted the unprecedented activity of the opposition forces in Yerevan, where a massive demonstration was held. Demonstrators demanded the resignation of the government.

"The warring sides in the Dniester region exchange statements and fire," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes. The Moldovan parliament does not give up its attempts to find ways to stopping bloodshed. It adopted another resolution "on ceasefire in the conflict zone." Another compromise way was approved, which considers a possibility of granting a special status to the cities and districts of the Dniester region. The authorities of the Dniester region said that way was unacceptable for them.

Yuriy Trutnev, a Russian nuclear physicist, has contributed an article to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, which deals with the problem of nuclear arms proliferation. He maintains that Russia is displaying more restraint than Americans with regard to the information running counter to the nuclear weapons non-proliferation commitments. There should be more restraint and even secrecy, if we do not want nuclear weapons to spread all over the world, Trutnev believes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, in which he spoke in favour of the establishment of equitable relations between Ukraine and Russia. "Russia should make only one step with regard to Ukraine: it should recognise it as a state equal to itself. Not a part of it, but its equal partner. If this is done, no major problems will remain in Russian-Ukrainian relations." Touching upon the problem of the Crimea, Kravchuk said that it concerns Ukraine and the Crimea. In his opinion, the Russian parliament made both an ill-considered and politically wrong step, when it recognised as invalid the turning over of the Crimea to Ukraine. From the legal point of view, it exceeded its powers, and from the point of view of international relations it even violated the Helsinki accords, Kravchuk stressed.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an interview with academician Georgiy Arbatov, a well-known economist, which deals with problems of the Russian economic reform. He said he rejected "Gaydarism", as he put it, and feared it could be replaced by the attempts to get back to the old administrative-command system. Arbatov believes that methods of the economic reform, suggested by the International Monetary Fund and its Russian supporters, cannot be applied to the Russian economy and are even dangerous for it.

International Affairs

More on Yeltsin, Bush Washington Summit Meeting

Official Previews Visit

OW1806051692 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Studio interview with Sergey Mikhaylovich Plekhanov, deputy director of the United States of America and Canada Institute, by Aleksandr Panov and Tatyana Vedeneyeva; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Panov] The number one issue in Russia's foreign political life is undoubtedly the visit of the Russian president to the United States. It has just begun and the program of this visit is underway at this very moment. Our guest today is Sergey Mikhaylovich Plekhanov, deputy director of the United States of America and Canada Institute. Sergey Mikhaylovich, what many of our people expect from this visit, if I can express it in one word—even though it may appear painful for our national pride—is help. They expect help from the United States. Now what will the American's get out of this visit? How are they assessing the significance of the visit?

[Plekhanov] If we speak about the Bush administration, then of course it needs this visit, a successful visit, because Bush's reelection in the coming presidential elections is not guaranteed. Traditionally President Bush's foreign policy is considered his strong point. The question of how relations between the United States and Russia and other former republics of the Soviet Union develop is viewed as the number one foreign policy challenge. If it turns out that this important summit meeting between President Yeltsin and President Bush ends unsuccessfully, then it will be seen as a liability for Bush. The democrats will rush to prove that this has once again shown that Bush's foreign policy is not keeping up with the times, and so forth.

If we talk about rank and file Americans, I think that the arrival of President Yeltsin will be met very warmly among the masses in America. It should be noted that Yeltsin's authority and prestige are growing. His prestige is not yet as high as Gorbachev's, but nevertheless everyone remembers, and everyone in the United States was impressed by how President Yeltsin opposed the putschists. In fact it created a permanent image: Yeltsin on top of a tank in the face of that entire armored armada, defending democracy against the might of the old state. So I would say that his prestige is growing.

If you ask Americans whether or not they are prepared to help the Soviet Union—polls of this sort were carried out and the results were quite curious—very many, up to about three quarters of those asked, were usually prepared to help, to give humanitarian aid. When Americans are asked, would you help or do you need to help Russia build a market economy, the percentage of those saying yes falls to 10 to 15 percent. You see, they feel that people should build a market economy themselves.

Military expenditures by the former Soviet Union reached one quarter of the gross national product. The Americans spent six percent. However, even this six percent turned out to be excessive. The cold war lasted too long. It distorted both the economy of the United States and the economy of the Soviet Union. Now, in order to recover from this shambles we, both of our countries, must learn to cooperate at a completely different level than we ever did in the past.

[Vedeneyeva] What kind of....

[Panov interrupts] Observers note that this will be the first Russian-American summit meeting since the end of the cold war.

[Vedeneyeva] What kind of mutual relations in general do you think are now possible between our countries (?after the end of the cold war)?

[Plekhanov] I consider that if it is done wisely and the practical national interests of Russia and the United States serve as the basis—in other words this requires a corresponding attitude by politicians in both countries—then we can move on to a very intensive partnership relations in the interests of both countries. You see, I do not believe that the United States can somehow dominate [osedlat] Russia. Russia is too big, mighty, and proud a country for this. In reality we can speak about the development of partnership relations that will be in the interests of both countries.

Now this is an enormous task for politicians. Unfortunately politicians, both in Washington and Moscow, are not always up to the level of current demands. However, very extensive and intensive work is underway and this visit will show to what extent the leaders of both countries have matured for the construction of new relations.

[Panov] The program for President Yeltsin's two-day visit is extremely busy. What moments would you highlight?

[Plekhanov] I would put the issue of strategic arms limitation in the first place. As you know, work on the framework [ramochnoye] agreement on limiting strategic offensive arms is continuing and there is no guarantee that an agreement of this kind will be concluded. There are differences between the two sides, but it has not been excluded that both presidents will manage to go the extra mile in order to...

[Panov interrupts] Just what the ministers of foreign affairs did not manage to do.

[Plekhanov] Yes, you know it seems to me that sometimes a well established formula goes into effect here, that what the ministers cannot achieve can be achieved by the presidents. A sort of...

[Panov interrupts] A political game.

[Plekhanov] Well, no, not a political game. It is as if some of the hors d'oeuvres are left over for the presidents. This may happen, but it is a very complex issue and we should not underestimate the real difficulties that still stand in the way of an agreement.

[Panov] The question of equality.

[Plekhanov] Yes, the question of equality. To the best of my knowledge, the Russian leadership intends to adhere to the principles of parity. Not in a simply formal way, a missile for a missile, say—although quantitative parity will undoubtedly be preserved in the treaty—but in the sense that no damage is done to the security of Russia for the sake of the treaty. I am convinced that the Russian leadership will not agree to an unequal treaty.

[Panov] I know that there is a whole package of economic agreements that President Yeltsin and President Bush intend to sign. Now tell us, if we return to the very first question—you gave a partial answer to this—are the most general expectations and hopes of our people that this visit will help us and the United States will extend help to our country, to Russia, are these expectations justified?

[Plekhanov] I think they are justified. The United States can and should help us to get rid of the burden of the military-industrial complex, to cut our military spending and reduce our excessive supply of arms. The United States is interested in this itself, no less than we are, in view of its own excessive military baggage.

The United States can also help us by seeing that our trade and economic relations move on to a normal, healthy basis. For our part, we should of course do more because our economy is not very well prepared for major U.S. investments that could be very beneficial to us. The United States, for its part, could eliminate the political limitations that still remain and improve the administration of these economic relations. Finally, it could clarify its position on what economic reforms in Russia the United States is prepared to support.

[Vedeneyeva] We should simply wait until the results of the visit are clear. If you have the desire and the opportunity, we would like to invite you to visit our studio again.

[Plekhanov] Thank you, with pleasure.

[Panov] Yes, to assess the results of the visit. Thank you. I would like to remind our television viewers that our guest was Sergey Mikhaylovich Plekhanov, deputy director of the United States of America and Canada Institute. He has just shared his observations on the visit of Boris Yeltsin to the United States, which has just begun.

Success Said Important to Leaders

PM1806101392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jun 92 First Edition p 1

[Correspondent Yuriy Kashin report under the general headline "Moscow-Washington: Russia's Success Is America's Success"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The next few hours will show whether the presidents arrive at a common denominator. There are still indirect signs that points of contact can be found. Returning from London, our Washington ambassador told reporters that the signing of an agreement on an unprecedented cut in Russian and U.S. nuclear weapons could be expected.

Whatever happens, it seems to me that some disagreements between Russia and the United States are basically unavoidable. This is nothing to get upset about. After all, we are only talking about different models of relations between our countries, the most important thing in which is the genuine desire for peace and harmony.

One other fact. Russia is going through a difficult stage in its history. At this precise moment the fate of credit for Russia worth $24 billion is being decided, and the West is not missing the opportunity to hint that greater flexibility is required from Russian diplomacy. I do not think that our leadership has any particular illusions on this score. However, we should not forget that this process has two sides to it as well. On the one hand, both the amount of aid and the time frame for giving it depend on flexibility at the talks, but on the other hand, the West's own interest in Russia is in many ways determined by the surviving military potential of the Russian Federation.

Both Boris Yeltsin and George Bush are currently experiencing major domestic difficulties. A successful outcome to the Washington summit would undoubtedly help to strengthen their positions and prestige. If, however, the meeting is nothing more than symbolic, then our president will face growing pressure from conservatives and Bush will reinforce Americans' opinion that his role in politics is becoming increasingly insignificant. Both the leaders who embarked on official talks 16 June understand this.

Commentary on U.S. Aid

PM1706143992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jun 92 p 3

[M. Chikin article: "All Doors Are Open, But Credits Are Not Coming In"]

[Text] "I have not come to America for a handout. I have come for a handshake with the U.S. President...." Yeltsin's first words on the tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base were meant to remove all doubts. In general, we do not travel to America for handouts, and we constantly stress this. They themselves, as it were, decide to help us, and then they create problems for themselves as to how to transmit this help to us. Shortly before the visit, for example, the CIA published fairly gloomy forecasts concerning the development of our economy, which will, naturally, affect the course of the talks on economic questions.

Yeltsin's visit to the States provides an excellent opportunity for the Americans to demonstrate who really dictates terms in the world today. Why did the notorious 24 billion not make it through the U.S. Congress, despite the fact that the decision had been taken by a purely supranational organization—the IMF? It is to be expected that we will have to assume the pose of a suppliant at the talks, clearly aware that without this money we will not be able to manage. The Japanese—the main holders of capital—were not at a loss for what to do. Shin Kanemaru, the influential Japanese politician, paid a lightning visit to Washington where he persuaded Bush to raise the territorial issue at the talks. The current situation closely resembles that which had taken shape on the eve of last year's London conference of the "Seven," when Gorbachev was placed in a similar position.

We have come full circle.

ITAR-TASS Reviews First Day

LD1706162192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1512 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Washington June 17 TASS—It was for the first time that the national anthem of the new Russia was played in the White House on Tuesday [16 June]. An official arrival ceremony for President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation took place at the White House south lawn.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Russian delegation, top administration officials, U.S. Congress leaders, prominent political and public figures of the country and representatives of the business community.

Welcoming the distinguished guest from Russia, President Bush said:

"Mr. President, today marks the beginning of a new era, a new kind of summit: not a meeting between two powers struggling for global supremacy, but between two partners striving to build a democratic peace. (applause.) From this summit we see a new horizon. A new world of peace and hope. A new world of cooperation and partnership between the american and russian people. Our hope is that this partnership will end forever the old antaganisms that kept our people apart, that kept the world in confrontation and conflict.

"Mr. President, your nation is embarked upon a great experiment, a new Russian revolution with freedom as its goal. The progress that Russia has made and the promise of more to come owes much to the courage and vision of President Boris Yeltsin. (applause.) Mr. President, like Peter the Great, you are redefining Russia's understanding of itself, redefining Russia's role in the world. For the first time in modern Russian history, a leader claims as his authority not the dispensation of history, but a democratic mandate. You come here as an elected leader, elected by the people in free and fair elections. And we salute you."

Yeltsin said in a reply speech:

"Today marks the beginning of the first-ever official visit by the president of Russia to the United States of America. The time when our two nations viewed each other with suspicion and even animosity is behind us. Today we are opening a new agenda. Never before have the prospects for a better world order or for the solution of global problems been so tangible and reachable.

"The bastions of communism were on combat duty for over 70 years: until very recently, they looked unassailable. They exist no more. They collapsed without a shot being fired, without one human life lost and have only left behind the sentiment of profound disappointment and bitterness among millions of men and women. We believe that it is our goal today to bring Russia back to normalcy, restore it to the values and the fundamentals which have evolved in the course of human history."

Then the first meeting between Bush and Yeltsin took place in the White House's Oval Office decked out with the miniature national flags of the United States and Russia. The U.S. President heartily greeted the Russian leader, expressing hope for a successful outcome of the U.S.-Russian political dialogue.

The two world leaders' meeting was still in progress when it became clear to hundreds of journalists who gathered in the White House that the day would go down in history as a significant date and that the two sides were reaching out to new, much deeper cuts in the murderous nuclear weapons.

And really, a sensational announcement was made by the two presidents in the White House Rose Garden at 1430, Washington time, or 2230, Moscow time.

"Let me just say that I am pleased to announce that President Yeltsin and I have agreement on two areas of vital importance to our countries and to the world," Bush told journalists.

"We have agreed to eliminate the world's most dangerous weapons—heavy ICBMs, and all other multiple warhead ICBMs, and dramatically reduce our total strategic nuclear weapons.

"Those dramatic reductions will take place in two phases. They will be completed no later than the year 2003, and may be completed as early as the year 2000, if the United States can assist Russia in the required destruction of ballistic missile systems. With this agreement, the nuclear nightmare recedes more and more for ourselves, for our children and for our grandchildren."

Yeltsin emphasised, for his part:

"We have decided to effect sharp dramatic reductions in the total amount of nuclear warheads from 21,000 to 6,000-7,000 for the United States of America and Russia," Yeltsin said, for his part.

"Indeed, we have been able to cut over those five months of negotiations the total number of nuclear warheads to one-third, while it took 15 years under the start treaty to make some reductions. This is an expression of the fundamental change in the political and economic relations between the United States of America and Russia. It is also an expression and a proof of the personal trust and confidence that have been established between the presidents of these countries, President Bush of the United States of America and president of Russia.

"This is a result of the trust entertained by the president of the democratic Russia towards America and by the President of the America towards the new Russia.

"We shall not fight against each other. This is a solemn undertaking that we are taking today, and it will be reflected as a matter of partnership and friendship in the charter that we are going to sign."

Full of important political activities, the first day of the Russian president's state visit to the U.S. ended with a state dinner and a concert programme in the Eastern Wing of the presidential residence.

The leaders of the U.S. and Russia offered toasts in honour of friendship and partnership between the U.S. and Russian peoples, for world peace, for tranquil and peaceful future for people around the world.

Spokesman Details Talks

LD1706160792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By Pavel Anichkin and Andrey Sitov, ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Washington June 17 TASS—Russia has already set about specific steps in preparation for the elimination of strategic missiles and warheads, Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the president of Russia, has told journalists at a briefing here.

In view of an accord reached during the current Russian-U.S. summit on far-reaching reductions in strategic offensive arms, Kostikov said the weapons would be eliminated in three places—Arzamas-16, Chelyabinsk-70 and Sverdlovsk-45. 18 heavy missiles are already being removed in Russia from operational alert as a gesture of goodwill, he added.

The Russian and U.S. presidents, during closed-door talks in the White House, discussed issues concerning not only nuclear arms but other weapons as well, Kostikov said.

Bush said in particular that the United States was very close to signing a convention on chemical weapons. Yeltsin said Russia was ready to sign such a document by autumn this year.

Matters related to reforms in Russia figured prominently at the talks. The U.S. President assured that he was ardently supporting the reform process. "There is full understanding among the U.S. Government that Russia's success in the transition to a market is America's success as well," Kostikov pointed out.

President Bush, he added, promised to use all his influence to urge the International Monetary Fund management to find a right, reasonable and compromise solution with regard to Russia and not set too tough conditions for the granting of credits to it.

The two presidents discussed space cooperation matters, Kostikov said. They spoke of the possibility of the launches of joint satellites, the utilization of the Soyuz space rocket to rescue American astronauts, a joint flight with the use of the Mir orbital station in 1993 as well as a docking of the Mir station and a U.S. space shuttle in 1994. They mentioned the possibility of a joint flight to Mars as a distant prospect.

Yeltsin told Bush that the Germans had submerged containers with a huge amount of chemical weapons in the Baltic Sea after the Second World War. The serviceability of the containers is drawing to an end. The containers are completely rusted and an ecological disaster in the Baltic Sea could be expected in the coming one or two years if no prompt measures are taken.

The two presidents also discussed the question of U.S. prisoners-of-war in Russia, Kostikov said. They meant a group of more than 2,000 POWs with a lot of different people among them—Americans who got to Russia after the Second World War, after the war in Vietnam, Americans with Russian names who at one time had been mistaken for the soldiers of General Vlasov's army siding with Nazi Germany. Several burial sites of Americans have already been found. The search is being continued.

In response, the U.S. President told Yeltsin that he would do his best to help Russia repatriate its prisoners-of-war from Afghanistan, Kostikov said.

Yeltsin on Meeting With Congressmen

LD1706224792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2114 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Barsukov and Ivan Lebedev]

[Text] Washington, 18 Jun—On 17 June, Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a meeting at Capitol Hill with the leaders of the U.S. Congress. It was attended by the speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas Foley, the leaders of the Democratic and Republican factions of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and chairmen of the principal committees of the Congress. The meeting took place after the Russian president addressed a joint session of both chambers of the Congress, where he was given an extremely warm reception.

Yeltsin's speech was received by the American legislators with genuine interest, and was repeatedly interrupted by long applause and exclamations of approval.

Talking to journalists after the meeting with the congressional leaders, Yeltsin said that he is grateful to the legislators for their warm reception and will always remember this day. He stressed that he will stand by his word and will certainly keep all the promises he has given to the American senators and congressmen. Answering reporters' questions, the Russian president again confirmed that he has arrived in the United States "not in order to ask for help." He said: I have come here here to develop Russian-American cooperation, and to sign an agreement on the reduction of the nuclear arsenals and other documents which should forever put an end to confrontation in the relations between the two countries.

Yeltin noted: It will now depend on Congress, the Administration and the U.S. President to decide on the best way to help the process of reforms in Russia. As the leaders of the Democrats and the Republicans in the Senate, George Mitchell and Robert Dole, said after the meeting with the Russian leader, his speech to Congress has increased the chances that the American legislators will soon adopt the law on helping Russian reforms.

Further on News Conference

LD1806140192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0942 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Q [Question]: President Yeltsin, in terms of the POWs and the MIAs do you think that Mikhail Gorbachev or any of his predecessors, even going back to Stalin and Khrushchev and Brezhnev knew about the possibility that Americans were being held? And why are you going to see Governor Clinton? Are you trying to touch all bases before November? (laughter.)

President Yeltsin: Well, that's just the point. They did know. That's the very point, that they kept it a secret. The point is that that era when we kept the truth from each other has come to an end and we will now tell the truth to each other, person to person, and will never do a double play.

Q: How about the Governor Clinton one? (laughter.)

President Yeltsin: Tomorrow morning I'm going to see Governor Clinton and we will meet. And as for the future. Russia will respect the wishes of the American people. (laughter.)

Q: And Mr. Yeltsin, you have said that you would like to make public the facts connected with the Korean (KAL) airliner, and our newspaper has already been doing this investigation for a number of years and we have already found out a lot of things, and now we would like to know just exactly who was responsible for what happened and what do you think we can expect.

And the same question. [sentence as received] I would like to ask Mr. President (Bush) to which extent do you think the American Administration would be helpful in that regard as well?

President Yeltsin: I will answer. You know that on the 20th of August at about 1800 hours, of last year, when it was clear that the coup leaders had lost, we seized the archives of the KGB and the former Central Committee of the Communist Party and we placed armed guards around the building. But several hours before that, one car from each place had time to remove some of the archives from those two buildings and destroy them. We do not know what was in those archives.

Now we are trying to check all of those archives through a comprehensive check of all of them. And we stumbled upon one document which we feel might be the beginning of a chain that might help us to unravel the entire tragedy with the Korean Boeing. It was a memorandum from KGB to the Central Committee of the Communist Party where it says that such a tragedy has taken place, and so on and so forth, and that there are documents which would clarify the entire picture. And the next line then says these documents are so well concealed that it is doubtful that our children will be able to find them, those who come after us will be able to find them. So this is our task. So then we began to check all the archives of the KGB and still tried—this is our challenge. We are trying to find those documents that were referred. And I still cherish the hope that we'll be able to find those documents, and if we do so, we will immediately make them public. I will be the first to call President Bush personally and tell him about it. And I will call you, too. (laughter.)

President Bush: May I just—the gentleman asked me to follow on, and I would simply say, one, we have great respect for this approach. It will be the most reassuring to the American people, not only as it relates to the airline, but also to the question that President Yeltsin handled so well before the Congress, the question of the POW and MIAs. And so I can't add anything to that except to say that we will pledge to him our full cooperation in terms of any inquiries or what we might have that they don't know at this time. And it is essential for the families that we get to the bottom of this, and it's essential to strengthening further this very strong relationship. So that's all I could add.

Q: Mr. President, a two-part question. President Yeltsin today pledged to deactivate the heavy SS-18 missiles that he said are targetted on the United States. Is there a reciprocal move that the United States will make?

And the second question is, you mentioned that these arms reductions are going to be the deepest of the nuclear age. Does this mean that the peace dividend will be more money for American cities and domestic problems?

President Bush: Well, let me say that we will live up to the agreement we entered into, and I'm not prepared to say what we will do in regards to the question of defusing or targetting, but we will live up to the letter of the agreement that we have discussed.

The dividend is declared when you make a profit, and our government is operating under an enormous deficit. And therefore, those who say take the money from this agreement and spend it on some federal project have to have—have to understand that the American people want to get something done about this deficit, and want to get something done so that we can get this economy growing. And so I would not pledge that any savings that might accrue to us because of this far-reaching agreement would go to some federal spending project.

On the other hand, I am determined to do—to help the cities. We've got some good proposals up there to the Congress, and I believe they're working on them. And I hope that they'll pass them.

Q: Mr. Yeltsin, the reaction to your statement in Congress was overwhelming. What do you think the reaction of the Russian Parliament would be to the documents and the agreements that have been signed here today?

President Yeltsin: Yes, I believe that the Russian Parliament reflects or should reflect the opinion of the Russian people. And the documents, the charters, the treaties that have been signed are promising. It is a promising step for improving the life of Russia, for progress in realizing reforms, not to support them would be a crime towards one's own people. And I am certain that the Supreme Soviet will support what we signed.

Q: President Yeltsin, there is still some confusion here in Washington over raising the issue of the POWs and MIAs. Is there actual information that you have unearthed in these archives? It's a very sensitive issue in the United States, and people are asking whether there is actual evidence, if there is some kind of chain or trail.

President Yeltsin: What we have on the POWs, I have written everything and given it to the Senate, what we know today. But we have made a step forward even yesterday. President Bush has made the decision to create his own part of a commission, and it will be a joint commission then. It will have co-chairmen. On our part, it will be General Volkogonov. He is an historian and he is a very honest man. He has come back to this work for many years. And from the American side, the co-chairman will be the former ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr. Toon. And I think that when they join their efforts, I think they will be able to move forward a lot faster in order to really clarify the entire picture.

Q: As we understood, you want to create a global defence system. What are the prospects and how do you intend to move forward with the system?

President Bush: Well, we've signed a broad, I would say beginning, agreement on that. I think President Yeltsin has touched on that in his public speeches, but I'd be glad to implement. We want to guard against nuclear proliferation, reckless use of weapons of mass destruction. For a long time, we've been doing research in this area, and it seems to us that this is a good area for cooperation with Russia. And so, that is—we've just begun on this from this agreement that we've entered into here today. But, it'll develop and there's good science, good technology on both sides. And we're determined to work together on this global defense area.

Q: We don't understand, sir, why former Soviet leaders would have wanted to keep these American prisoners quiet. In the case of Francis Gary Powers, Khrushchev used that as political propaganda to undermine President Eisenhower. Why would these prisoners have been kept alive and in camps without any publicity? Was it just meanless, cruelty? They just wanted to torture them, find out what they could? Do your archives reveal anything about that?

My question to you, sir, would be do you think that what Mr. Yeltsin had to say about the POW/MIA issue (defused that?) issue completely today? And what are your people telling you about the prospect for Russian aid now in Congress?

President Yeltsin: You have had a chance to ask the question of the former president of the former Soviet Union why he kept this a secret. I am not responsible for him.

President Bush: Good answer.

I think the way President Yeltsin handled that question was extraordinarily sensitive in the Congress today, was extraordinarily sensitive to American public opinion and to the anguish and grief of the families. And I would refer you to the various chairmen that are here with us today, representatives of both parties. But in my view, he diffused by being so forthright and so forthcoming the criticism that you say did exist. I think I know of one very honourable senator who has probably as much at stake in this broad subject as any, Senator McCain, who was a prisoner himself in Vietnam for a long, long time. And he was satisfied and pleased with the statement by President Yeltsin.

So it is my hope that that matter has been disposed of. We will go forward working cooperatively with Russia. I hope it's been disposed of. And I believe that the speech that he gave today, not just in this category, but in all categories, helped assure the passage of the freedom support act. It is essential that we move forward and pass that. And I know there's a lot of questions that'll be asked up there, but it is in our interest.

I know it's in the interest of both Russia and the United States, and we must not miss this opportunity. I'll say once again, we've spent literally trillions of dollars for defence. And here's an opportunity to take out an insurance policy for peace and democracy and to back a courageous leader and a courageous people. And so I think it will pass, and I think his speech today that I watched keenly will help assure that passage. He was very well received in the Congress, and maybe after this is over you can discuss this with some of the leaders of the Congress who are here.

Q: Mr. Yeltsin, what do you think the significance of this visit will be for the common people of Russia? What can you say about that?

President Yeltsin: I think that the negotiations themselves and the documents—and I might say that we will have signed about 39 documents all in all...but each of these documents is profitable for Russia, for the Russian people. Nowhere have we compromised our economic interests, our freedom or the interests of the Russian people, we always kept in mind the interests of the people of Russia. And I'm very grateful, by the way, to President Bush, that he always took the position that if we did not take measures now to support Russia, this will not be a collapse of Russia only, it will also mean the collapse for the United States because it will mean new trillions of dollars for the arms race. And this is what we have to understand, this is inadmissible and impermissible.

Q: How serious do you think is the need for economic aid to Russia, and how soon do you think the United States will be able to make its contribution?

President Bush: I would simply say we think it's serious, we think that the changes that Russia has embarked on are absolutely essential. I know there are still some problems that remain with the IMF, that we had very frank discussions about that. We are prepared to help move this forward—this package forward as swiftly as possible. I think the president put it best when he talked about the urgency of this, so I will let him add onto it, but we are viewing this as priority. We are viewing this as a prior consideration. We have many domestic issues here, and we're going to keep pushing forward on them—economic growth, help for the cities—and we can do all of those and pass this freedom support act. So we're going to keep pushing forward on the domestic front, but this is priority internationally, and we are going to be prepared to be weighing in and talking in great depth about this when I go to the G-7 summit in Munich.

Q: Mr. President, what are the alternatives if Congress doesn't pass the aid legislation?

President Bush: Well, I think they're going to pass it, and it's too hypothetical.

President Yeltsin: I think that, of course, these 24 billion dollars are important, the 24 billion dollars that would have come to us as credits from the IMF. It is an important thing for any civilized country, especially for Russia at this time. They will not even significantly help us. Perhaps they will help us to stabilize the rouble, they will help us to make the rouble convertible in July, once this question is decided. But the most important thing is that once the IMF decides this issue, this will open the door for a powerful stream, influx of private capital, and those will not be credits, those will be direct investments from private companies. And we have talked to business people in the United States, together with President Bush, and the business people here understand that very well, and the same situation exists in other countries. And that will be a matter of hundreds of billions of dollars, and that will be very important aid. It will be direct aid, it will be civilized aid, it will support our private sector, which is what we want.

Q: This is a question for both presidents. You have really had good results from this meeting. What is it that you have failed to accomplish or have not had time to accomplish? What do you think the next point on the agenda should be for the next summit, perhaps?

President Yeltsin: You know, in addition to those issues which are reflected in the documents that have been signed, we discussed dozens and dozens of other issues which are not reflected in the documents. Dozens of them. For example, there was a wonderful pleasure trip on a boat on the river which lasted an hour and 15 minutes, and even during that trip we worked and we discussed a lot of issues that we will continue to talk about and will raise again at the next meeting. I hope very much that the President of the United States will accept my invitation and will come and visit Moscow on an official visit at the end of this year. And I am convinced that a very serious package of documents will be prepared by the time he comes for this visit.

President Bush: A summit of this nature is broken down into two general categories. One, agreements, where you sit down and hammer out agreements. Many of them are precooked. The arms control agreement was enhanced and was finalized because President Yeltsin came here with some new ideas, and he and his foreign minister and James Baker and others here worked very hard on getting it finalized. So that's part of it, the agreements.

But I find that a lot of the benefit of a meeting of this nature is the kind of dicussion that we had not just on the boat where we talked for an hour about worldwide problems, but where we—the discussions that we had upstairs when I had some private time with the president, private time in the Oval Office with him, secretary, and Brent Scowcroft.

It is very important that Russia and the United States not pass in the dark, that we understand: He understands how we look at the Balkans, for example, and I understand how he does, or the Middle East, or South America, or Japan. And it is very important that two very important countries like this discuss in detail, without trying to hammer out agreements, the world situation. And that's exactly what we did. I have a far better understanding of the problem he faces at home, and perhaps he has a better understanding of the problems that we face here in this country.

Q: A few minutes ago, you described to one of the Russian journalists a document that you found relating to the Korean Airline shootdown. Can you describe to us any documents or details that you have found about the prisoner or war issue so that Americans might understand why you believe that prisoners might have been taken to Russia and why you believe there might be still some alive?

President Bush: I'll answer it no, and then let President Yeltsin take the first part. There are none that have been brought to my attention.

President Yeltsin: What we know today and what I have informed the Senate about, we are prepared to submit all the documents on that score. As to what we find later, as we find it, we will submit those documents. I assure you that there will be no secrets. As we find them, we will let them be known. And it will be a joint commission and they will be working together on the archives.

Q: Can you tell us, sir, what you have found already?

President Yeltsin: The most important thing is that we know the numerical picture. We know how many people there were on the territory, how many were left, what camps the POWs were held in, the citizens of the United States, which war they were from whether it was World War II or the Korean war or any other incident. So, that part of the picture is clear. We know who died, where they are buried. We know that also. What we still don't know, we don't know a certain number of people who are really—we can't find where they belong and we don't know where they are and we have no—we have simply no information about them. And this is why we say that maybe some of them are still alive and are still in Russia. And this is why we say we would like to find further documents on those people.

President Bush: May I say we're going to take more questions, one from each side. But let me add something to this. This is not a one-sided question. We don't hold—we aren't holding anybody. I know of nobody ever having held people. But there's a lot of heartbreak in Russia. There's a lot of families that wonder what happened to their loved ones in Afghanistan. And while we were having these frank talks, I told President Yeltsin we would do absolutely everything we can. We lack a lot of purchase in some of these areas, but we will do absolutely everything we can to cooperate with him and with—to see that those young men, these Russians who were held, allegedly held, in Afghanistan are returned. So, the heartbreak is on both sides. The agony is on both sides. Different circumstances, but I just wanted you to know, that we have pledged, and I want the people in Russia to know, that we have pledged to work cooperatively with President Yeltsin to try to get some information that might alleviate the suffering of families in Russia.

Q: Could you tell us something about the possibilities that have arisen for helping Russia as a result of signing the kind of documents you have signed? What is possible and what makes it psychologically difficult? What should be changed in Russia to make it easier?

President Bush: Well, change in Russia to make it easier would be going forward as briskly as possible with the reforms. That opens up not only cooperative support from the United States, but from the G-7 and other countries who want to help.

What we can do the most is to pass the freedom support act. Now you say what are the problems with that. Some of it relates to—to the—some of the big package relates to the reforms and the need to get it through the IMF.

Very candidly, so the people of Russia will understand that there is some sentiment here that we should concentrate all our efforts in terms of spending domestically. It is my view—I don't think that's the will of the Congress, however, I believe the Congress will support the freedom support act. We are in an election year here and the people of Russia have to understand it's a little strange out there and things work differently in an election year. But the case for this freedom support act is so overriding that I am confident that we can lay the politics aside and get this passed. I think that President Yeltsin's speech today was so well received that that will enhance passage of the freedom support act. And that is the answer to your question, what can the United States do? It can pass this. It can work with the international financial institutions to be sure if—see if we can help eliminate some of the problems. But—and work cooperatively with the G-7, who I'm convinced will want to help Russia. It is the kind of an approach.

Q: What should be changed in Russia in order to make it—to make aid easier?

President Bush: Well, I just think accommodation as much as possible. And you've got Mr. Gaydar trying to very much do that, along with this president, to accommodate the requirements of the international financial institutions.

We've made a commitment here, we've made a commitment and we're going to go forward with it. The whole package needs to be accommodated by—passed by having these changes that the presidents already started go forward. And there are certain requirements. There are some—I'd leave that to the financial experts that are here with—from Russia. But I can't say anything about the details except to say that what Russia can do is to try to iron out the requirements that lie ahead. And I believe that—I know that President Yeltsin is determined to do that, and I'm confident with an able man like the vice premier here if it can be done, he'll help get it done.

President Yeltsin: I also would like to give my evaluation, since I am a participant in these events. And on my part, nine out of ten is the probability of help of what we have decided upon. That's how I evaluate it.

Q: I heard Yeltsin say that you don't want to force any other nations to join you. But now that you are so down the road of disarmament, should some of the allies of the United States cut deeply in the own nuclear weapons?

President Yeltsin: The thing is that when I was on an official in France or a working visit in the United Kingdom, and when we discussed this issue in detail with the leaders of those countries, I personally came to the conclusion that actually, we didn't really need to talk about these issues. It wasn't really necessary, because the quantities are totally incommernsurate. Can you imagine 21,000 warheads—strategic warheads that our two countries have in their possession, and then take one hunderd that some other country has? Is it really worth talking about? Is it worth arguing about? Especially once we begin discussing it, they themselves come to the conclusion that the atmosphere in the world, once it changes, it will itself lead them to lower the level of their strategic armaments. Their own peoples will demand it.

In France, they have one hundred submarines—five submarines, and we have hundreds. So how can we compare them?

President Bush: Let me just reiterate the policy of the United States. We do not negotiate somebody else's armaments. We talk about the United States, and so I'm not going to go into that all. Our policy is well-known, and I think that the president put this in very proper perspective here. We're dealing with something enormous in working down our own arsenals, we got our plate pretty full there. But it is not for the President of the United States to start talking about the French or British deterrent, and that's not my role.

Specifics of Reductions Reported

LD1806135792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0842 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] [no dateline as received] The president of the Russian Federation and the President of the United States agreed on further substantial reductions in strategic offensive weapons. Specifically, the sides agreed to conclude a treaty very soon that will contain the following articles:

1. Within the seven-year period that follows the coming into force of the START Treaty, they will reduce their strategic forces to levels not exceeding:

a) a total number of warheads for each of the sides at between 3,800 and 4,250 (as each side shall determine for itself) or whatever lower level each side shall set for itself;

b) 1,200 warheads on MIRVed ICBMs;

c) 650 warheads on heavy ICBMs;

d) 2,160 warheads on SLBMs.

2. By 2003 (or, if the United States can contribute to the financing of the destruction or elimination of strategic offensive weapons in Russia, by the end of the year 2000) they will:

a) reduce the total number of each side's warheads to between 3,000 and 3,500 (as each side shall determine for itself) or to such lower levels as are set by each side;

b) eliminate all MIRVed ICBMs;

c) reduce the number of warheads on SLBMs to a level not in excess of 1,750 warheads.

3. In order to calculate the numbers indicated above:

a) the number of warheads attributed to heavy bombers intended for nuclear tasks will be the number of nuclear weapons for which they are actually equipped;

b) in observing the agreed procedures, heavy bombers, not exceeding 100 in number, which have never been equipped with ALCMs and which have been redesignated for non-nuclear tasks, will not be included in the overall levels stipulated by the present accord.

(1) Such heavy bombers will be based separately from heavy bombers intended for nuclear tasks.

(2) No nuclear weapons will be sited at the bases of heavy bombers intended for non-nuclear tasks.

(3) Such aircraft and crews will not take part in exercises or undergo training for tasks that use nuclear weapons.

(4) Existing inspection procedures that have already been agreed to under the START Treaty will be used to confirm that these bombers are intended for non-nuclear tasks. No new verification procedures will be required.

(5) If no other agreement is reached, these bombers will, as before, be covered by articles in the START Treaty, including the articles on inspections.

4. The reductions established in this accord will be carried out by destroying the launchers of missiles and heavy bombers by applying the procedures envisaged by the START Treaty and, in accordance with the plans of the two sides, by reducing the number of warheads on existing ballistic missiles, excluding SS-18s. If no other agreement is reached, warheads on ballistic missiles will be counted in accordance with the counting regulations envisaged in the START Treaty.

5. The presidents gave instructions for the accord to be rapidly recorded as a short treaty-type document that they will sign and submit for ratification in their respective countries. Since this new accord is a separate document but serves to develop the START Treaty, they continue to make persistent calls for the START Treaty to be ratified and implemented as soon as possible.

Completed in Washington on 17 June 1992 in two copies, in Russia and in English, both texts are equally authoritative.

Cuts To Spark 'Fierce Debate'

PM1806093792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jun 92 pp 1,3

[Report by correspondent Vladislav Drobkov: "Season of Visits. Yeltsin in America"]

[Excerpts] Washington, 17 Jun—Tuesday, 16 June, the second day of Boris Yeltsin's stay in America, saw the most important, most intensive, and busiest stage of his official U.S. visit. Perhaps even, the most contradictory.

History will reveal a pattern, but for the moment, to be frank, I do not know how to define what happened on this long, hot day: an historic breakthrough in the reduction of the two countries' nuclear arsenals, the beginning of a new era in their relationship, or a rash, unjustified concession to Washington and Russia's loss, once and for all, of its superpower status and importance. [passage omitted]

I do not know whether what happened a few hours after the meeting on the White House south lawn was the result of the grand reception, the outcome of the Americans' doggedness and diplomatic expertise, or a prearranged surprise, but, when they emerged to confront waiting journalists in the White House Rose Garden after the first round of talks, the two presidents announced that they had reached agreement on the chief and most difficult problem of the current visit. They announced that Russia and the United States had agreed to destroy all land-based multiple-warhead missiles and most of their remaining strategic nuclear missile arsenals. [passage omitted]

These sensational agreements caught many commentators unawares. Only the day before, the statement by Bush and Yeltsin in the Rose Garden, U.S. Secretary of State Baker was talking about there still being serious differences between the sides' positions. The Russian president himself was saying that he would not make any concessions to the United States, which was seeking one-sided advantages. Then what happens? The advantages that accrue to Washington under the present accord are obvious. For all the benefits of the destruction of the cold war's nuclear legacy and the removal of the stockpiles of strategic missiles that are clogging up the world, I cannot understand why Russia should sacrifice the most powerful means of deterring a potential aggressor (not only the United States, given that our relationship has become such a remarkable one), and clearly this is going to give rise to fierce debate in the Russian Supreme Soviet when it comes to ratification of the agreements.

It appears that such an unexpected change in the Russian president's stance came as a surprise even to his press secretary, preventing him from coming up with a plausible explanation of what had happened. When V. Kostikov was asked why Yeltsin talked in Moscow about concessions being impossible, but then made them in Washington, he made the not entirely successful joke that the audience at home was a different one, a military audience.

However, there were people in Washington who appeared to know in advance how day one of the Bush-Yeltsin talks would end. They are the officials of the hyperconservative Heritage Foundation organization, which prepared for the Russian president's visit, a series of recommendations for the U.S. President. These recommendations were published in the previous issue of PRAVDA. Well, many of their pieces of advice have now come to pass. For instance, the Heritage Foundation recommended getting Yeltsin to accelerate the arms reduction process. Done! It suggested that he should be persuaded that the 1972 ABM Treaty must be abandoned. OK, a group of specialists has been set up to prepare for this. Exert pressure to get Russia's secret archives open? That has been done too—an exhibition of documents from CPSU Central Committee and KGB archives has opened in Washington.... [passage omitted]

'Real Impact' of Accord Questioned

PM1806094592 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "Boris Yeltsin in America"]

[Excerpts] The Russian and U.S. Presidents have announced in Washington a major breakthrough in nuclear disarmament talks. The new accord goes considerably further than the cuts envisaged by the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms signed last summer. [passage omitted]

Thus the disarmament race, which has replaced the arms race, is picking up speed all the time. You would think this could only be a source of joy, but it is troubling that there are only two participants in the race. Moreover, one has a powerful automobile and a whole team of allies, while the other has a vehicle which is about to break down and nowhere can it expect help from.

There is another factor here too. As becomes clear in practice, it is no cheaper to destroy weapons, particularly nuclear missiles, than to produce them. Is it not simpler to stand them down and mothball them while simultaneously halting all development of new, more sophisticated and dangerous weapons? That is precisely what the Americans do not want. They are urging us to destroy the better part of our arsenal while speeding up the development of qualitatively new kinds of armaments. They do so in the full knowledge that our military-industrial complex is in its death throes amid the convulsions of conversion.

An effective agreement in the disarmament sphere is undoubtedly esssential to both presidents, who are experiencing difficulties on the "home front." However, it is difficult to make even stunning figures substitute for an element of innovation. So, by all accounts, the expectations linked to the new accords exceed their real impact. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin on 'Moving Away From Parity'

PM1806132392 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jun 92 pp 1, 3

[Special correspondents Ye. Ovcharenko, V. Shutkevich report: "There Will Be No War. Or Parity"]

[Excerpts] Washington—The U.S. and Russian presidents agreed on the above in Washington yesterday. [passage omitted]

It turns out that we are abandoning the foundations of our mutual relations with the United States in the military sphere: parity, which for several decades has been considered the main shield of defense. The expedience on which the two countries have agreed upon on this occasion inevitably prompts numerous mutually exclusive judgments—who has won and who has lost. The military will argue about this, and it will certainly lead to heated passions in parliament. We have learned that, even an hour before the two presidents reported their agreement, polarized opinions could be encountered among the Russian delegation members. How did Boris Yeltsin explain his motives for abandoning the balance of strength?

"We are thus moving away from parity, which every country has tried its best to maintain and which has taken Russia, for example, to a point whereby half its population live below the poverty line. We cannot allow that to happen to ourselves, and therefore we should have a minimum security level so as to be prepared for instances which could occur anywhere in the world and threaten our security. But we know one thing: We will not fight each other," he said.

A CIA report on the state of the Russian economy was published some days before the summit meeting. It assessed the prospects for Russia and other CIS countries in the next few years as "gloomy," while the continuation of the reform process on the former USSR's territory, in the opinion of the report's authors, will be accompanied by both disturbances and frequent crises.

It is not surprising that, faced with the social upheavals being predicted, U.S. business circles are not rushing to invest in our economy and are biding their time until at least relative stability arrives in Russia; getting a return is highly problematical right now, and the risk of losing everything is too great. Many people here are talking about our market, but there is no way trade between America and Russia is going to progress from the pathetic figure of 0.2 percent of U.S. trade turnover. This comes from grain deliveries, which have become as inevitable as the changing seasons. This is in regards to economics.

However, the political situation is no less alarming. In the first hour after the talks began, George Bush anxiously questioned his colleague on the latest appointments in Russia and on the stability of the Gaydar government. Boris Nikolayevich assured the President: The Gaydar-Yeltsin team remains strong and united, and ready to speed up the policy of reforms. At the same time, the Russian president persistently requested Bush to bring moral pressure to bear on the IMF in order to prevent it from imposing especially tough conditions on the granting of credits to Russia. "Today American democracy is being defended in Russia," Yeltsin asserted.

Are the Americans receptive to this call for help? Certain recent steps by the Bush administration give grounds for suggesting that they are. However, on the other hand, most-favored-nation status, which the USSR was deprived of way back in 1951, has not been restored to Russia to this day. The so-called "antidumping" policy in relation to many Russian export goods is being maintained, as a result of which, duties on our goods are set two to 10 times higher than other countries have to pay. Recent examples, dating from the postcommunist era, are the economic sanctions on Russia's giving India rocket engines, and the furor raised by U.S. industrialists over raw uranium imported from the CIS countries, which they say is delivered at prices which are too low. Finally, the U.S. President simply failed to steer his "freedom support bill" through Congress before Yeltsin's arrival, although he was counting heavily on it. The ambiguity of the U.S. position on this question was quite neatly summed up by Henry Kissinger: "Russia presents us with a paradox: A monolithic Russia threatens to become supreme, an impotent Russia threatens to upset the balance." From his viewpoint, the ideal thing for the Americans would be a Russian state that is "strong enough to defend itself but not so centralized as to be in a position to carry out geopolitical offensives." As a colleague of ours ironically observed, the United States is putting the future Russia somewhere between Britain and France, but will it fit into such a confined space?

Cuts Not To 'Weaken' Defense Capability

OW1806131792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 18 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature based on reports by "diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev et al"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The unprecedented reduction of strategic nuclear armaments agreed upon in Washington by the presidents of Russia and the United States does not weaken the

Russian defence capability in any way. The statement was made by a leading foreign ministry expert on disarmament.

In an exclusive interview for IF [INTERFAX] he said that even after the cuts Russia and the USA will keep "a fantastic amount of nuclear charges". "In the past we used to speak of scores of thousands of charges. But even the 3,000-3,500 warheads which each of the sides can keep, it is too much", the expert stressed.

On the geography of the coming cuts the expert said that undoubtedly the strategic nuclear weapons stationed in Ukraine, Byelarus and Kazakhstan will be scrapped first. He emphasized that in Lisbon the three former Soviet republics signed a protocol under which their territories should become nuclear-free zones. According to the official, the cuts will also affect strategic weapons in Russia. Only in this case it is possible to reach the ceilings agreed upon in Washington, he added.

According to the expert, the framework understanding on the reduction of strategic nuclear armaments from the combined total of 21,000 warheads to 6,000 or 7,000 at the most is a compromise. During the talks before the Washington meeting the Americans insisted on cutting the land component of the Russian nuclear triad: heavy intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Russia was ready for that only if the sea component of the American triad was reduced. In the final account the Americans agreed which permitted the two presidents to reach the understanding. Besides, the Washington agreement actually removes the asymmetry that appeared as a result of the START-1 treaty under which with the ceiling of 6,000 warheads the Americans could actually have 9,500 while the Soviet side only 7,000.

Yeltsin Activities Viewed

LD1706190492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Video report by Yuriy Rostov from Washington; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The main event that has taken place during Boris Yeltsin's visit is the accord on reductions in strategic arms. It was reached at the very outset of the talks and signifies a reduction of nuclear arsenals by two-thirds in the course of the next 10 years.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] In order to reduce strategic offensive arms in the first stage of the START Treaty, 15 years of talks were needed, and now five months in order to come to an agreement on a threefold reduction. This shows our quite radical transformation and a change in our relations. [end recording]

Ten years from now, instead of 21,000 nuclear warheads, 7,000 warheads will remain on the strategic weapons of the United States and Russia; that is to say, 3,500 per side. As is known, the United States traditionally had a predominance of nuclear missiles on submarines and the strategic air force, while Russia had powerful land-based missiles. By the end of the decade, land-based missiles with multiple warheads must be completely eliminated—that means the Russian SS-18 missiles. That is indeed the most dangerous weapon: first, because of the destructive force, and, second, because their location is known. In case of a crisis, the enemy will hope to destroy them at once and, accordingly, the probability of a nuclear conflict will be very great. With regard to the strategic air force, limiting it was not at all discussed in the past few hours.

Russia is hoping for economic assistance on the part of the United States. A package of bills to that effect is now in the U.S. Congress. However, their approval was quite unexpectedly impeded by information about U.S. prisoners of war. Boris Yeltsin stated when he flew to the United States and confirmed later that there may be Americans who fought in Vietnam in Russian prisons. Since yesterday appeals started to be heard in the U.S. Congress for no cooperation whatsoever with Russia to be approved until information on these prisoners of war is confirmed. No one knows, it seems to us, how it can reliably be determined if there are American prisoners of war in Russia and how this can be found out quickly.

In the past few hours, Boris Yeltsin was applauded at Air and Space Museum; Boris Yeltsin and George Bush opened the Russian-American business conference; and the Russian president just ended his address to the U.S. Congress.

Yeltsin Meets With Quayle

LD1706163992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1601 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Lebedev]

[Text] Washington June 17 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin started the second day of his official state visit to the United States at a breakfast with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle.

Quayle told reporters after the meeting that Yeltsin and he had discussed further reduction of strategic offensive weapons in the two countries and the details of the accord reached on Tuesday [16 June] on new deep cuts in the nuclear arsenals of the United States and Russia.

According to Quayle, much attention was given to the possible Russian-American cooperation in the field of creating global system of protection against limited nuclear strikes. Along with this, Quayle said that no alterations in the 1972 ABM treaty were considered during the meeting.

President Yeltsin and Vice President Quayle, who heads the U.S. National Space Council, discussed prospects for cooperation between the United States and Russia in the field of space exploration.

Yeltsin on Joint Space Ventures

LD1706162792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1529 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Lebedev]

[Text] Washington June 17 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, currently in the United States on an official state visit, went to see the National Museum of Aeronautics and Space on Tuesday [16 June] afternoon.

The president was accompanied by U.S. Secretary of Transport Andrew Card, and Daniel Goldin, the recently appointed new director of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

When asked by the ITAR-TASS correspondent as to why he decided to visit precisely this museum in Washington Yeltsin said after making a tour of the museum:

"President Bush and I have just discussed space research matters. We decided to draw on the unique experience that has been gained in the United States and Russia and not to engage in parallel research but implement costly space programmes through joint efforts. This will be cheaper by half".

The president of Russia pointed out that previously, owing to ideological confrontation, the two countries sought to get ahead of each other in the space race "if only by half a day". At present we got rid of those dogmas," Yeltsin said.

Russia and the United States intend to sign an agreement on the development of cooperation in space research for a period of several years ahead. "Joint space launches, space dockings, space research and ecological monitoring will be practised under an agreement," the president said.

"In the long term, we shall prepare for a joint space flight to Mars. The scientists of Russia and the United States must work on this already now," he added.

Yeltsin Speaks at News Conference

LD1806023692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2230 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Washington, 18 Jun—After signing Russian-U.S. documents in the White House on 17 June, President Boris Yeltsin told a news conference:

"Esteemed Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: The time has come to sum up this brief but fruitful period in our relations, when the principle foundations for U.S.-Russian cooperation have been laid. I view it as extremely important. We now have a basis for cooperation; we now have something to which we can give specific substance. Of course, today's documents would hardly have been signed without the search for points of contact over a number of years. It was important, however, not only to inherit from our predecessors everything positive, but also to decisively throw off the negative traditions which had materialized, primarily the great distrust of each other that was cloaked by good manners and verbal exercises. I think that Russian-U.S. relations are maintaining a good rhythm. Unlike previous years, the documents we have signed are not to determine any new boundaries or limits, even if more liberal; on the contrary, they are to open up new opportunities and to remove limitations one after another.

"Of course, the treaties and agreements which are being made public today do not concern our two countries only. To a certain extent, they are an outline of the world's future, a description of the essential elements of its existence. I must say that this world is becoming more attractive, more humane, and kinder than today. We are not inventing speculative global programs to restructure the world or setting the aim of compelling all states and peoples to fulfill them. We seek ways to solve our problems, relying on cooperation and trust between each other, including personal trust between President Bush and the Russian president. We are convinced that this is the foundation that will enable us to achieve the best result.

"I attach particular importance to two areas of Russian-U.S. relations: strategic arms and economic cooperation. The fate of strategic arms is predetermined today: Mankind does not need them following the cold war. The main thing today is to calculate the sequence and timeframe for their gradual dismantling and destruction. The other side of this problem is the need to defend the world effectively against any chance of their being used. A firm foundation for work on this problem has been created.

"We regard the establishment of full-blooded economic cooperation and the intensification of the most diverse ties and contacts in this field as no less important to our relations. We concluded treaties of fundamental importance which remove obstacles to this path. Our countries have become significantly more attractive to those engaged in business at both the state and private levels. The latter are especially important to us.

"After 70 years of desecrating private property, it is being restored on Russian territory. Its rightful place in the Russian economy will increase with each passing year. In conclusion, I would like to draw your attention to the following, lest we should be seduced by our achievements: to give a realistic estimate of what we have accomplished, it would be best to compare it to the maximum we would like to achieve. If we see the U.S.-Russian dialogue from this point of view, we can conclude only one thing: There is long, intensive work ahead in the United States of America, as well as in Russia. We should leave a fitting legacy to those who take over from us, a tuned-up mechanism of interaction between Russia and the United States and between the people of our countries. Mr. President, I thank you for creating excellent conditions for our fruitful work and for the splendid success of this fruitful work." The presidents then answered correspondents' questions.

Friendship Charter Highlighted

LD1806105892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0840 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] [No dateline as received]—In the cold war period the USSR and the United States created a whole range of obstacles for one another's official representatives with regard to the implementation of their functions and their movement around the country of residence. As Russia and the United States enter a new era of partnership and cooperation, these old barriers are becoming an anachronism. No longer corresponding to the new, more open nature of the relations between our countries, they have lost any sense and are making more difficult, the effective activity of our embassies and consulates.

In Washington we have reached an agreement to remove many of these old barriers and to broaden the possibilities for bilateral cooperation. In particular, we have adopted a decision concerning the following:

—We have agreed to eliminate "closed districts" [zakrytye rayony] and to go over to the concept of "open lands" [otkrytaya susha] as the basis for working out a plan for the movement of officials.

—Russia will open a consulate in Seattle. The United States will open a consulate in Vladivostok. We have agreed to discuss the possibility of opening new consulates in the near future, perhaps in Yekaterinburg and Chicago.

—The quota restrictions are being removed on the number of official staff at the embassies and consulates of our two countries.

Taken together, these steps will bring our diplomatic practice into line with international norms and will create a better foundation for constructive and effective joint work on improving Russian-American relations.

Signed Summit Documents Described

LD1706230992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2124 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Matyash and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Washington, 18 Jun—On the afternoon of 17 June, a ceremony to sign Russian-American documents took place in the White House. Boris Yeltsin and George Bush signed a charter of Russian-American partnership and friendship, a framework agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States on further reductions in strategic offensive weapons, a memorandum on Russian-American cooperation on a global system for the defense of the international community, an agreement on cooperation in studying and using space for peaceful goals, an agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States regarding the safe and reliable transportation, storage, and destruction of weapons and the prevention of arms proliferation, a treaty on encouraging mutual protection of capital investments, and a treaty on avoiding double taxation.

The Presidents issued joint statements on prospects for bilateral cooperation in studying and using space, on cooperation in the field of conversion, on the nonproliferation of nuclear arms on the Korean peninsula, on the elimination of chemical weapons, on issues of bilateral relations, and a statement on Bosnia-Hercegovina.

On the Russian Government's behalf Yegor Gaydar signed an agreement on U.S. Peace Corps activity in Russia and an agreement between the Russian and U.S. governments on scientific and technical cooperation in the sphere of fuel and power engineering. Andrey Kozyrev, Russian minister of foreign affairs, and James Baker, U.S. secretary of state, put their signatures on a package of important bilateral documents, including memoranda on understanding betwen the Russian and U.S. governments regarding "open land" [otkrytaya susha] and on the use of air space, and an accord between the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy and the U.S. Defense Department regarding the safe and reliable transportation and storage of nuclear weapons.

The Russian Federation and the United States, the Charter of Russian-American Partnership and Friendship says in particular, will closely interact in the international arena in the interests of advancing and defending common democratic values, human rights and the main liberties.

Considering the key importance of contacts between the president of the Russian Federation and the U.S. President for determining the basic areas of bilateral relations and also in the context of global cooperation and stability, summit meetings will be held on a regular basis.

While working in the interests of achieving a democratic world the Russian Federation and the United States realize that the ending of the cold war has not led to a halt of instability and conflicts in Europe. Inter-ethnic tension, territorial disputes, and international rivalry are already threatening to transform the prospects that have opened up for attaining peace into a fresh phase of upheavals in the European continent. Therefore, mechanisms to prevent, control, and settle conflicts and opportunities to keep peace in Europe must be strengthened, if we want to cope properly with future crises. To these ends, the Russian Federation and the United States support the following initiatives: The establishment of the post of special representative of the CSCE, to help increase efforts to solve problems connected with interethnic tensions and attitudes to minorities; the strengthening of resources within the CSCE aimed at ensuring more effective prevention, control and settlement of international disputes; the creation of a sufficiently strong Euro-Atlantic peace-keeping potential, based on the political authority of the United Nations, which would make it possible to use the possibilities of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, NATO and the WEU to prepare, support and direct operations under the auspices of the CSCE, and would enable each member state of the CSCE to allocate armed forces and resources.

The Russian and the U.S. Presidents agreed on further important reductions in strategic offensive weapons. In particular the framework agreement on this issue notes that, during the seven years after the Strategic Offensive Weapons Treaty comes into force, they will cut their strategic forces to a level not above: A total level of weapons for each of the sides of between 3,800 and 4,250; 1,200 MIRVed ICBM's; 650 heavy ICBM's; 2,160 SLBM's. By the year 2003 (or by the end of the year 2000, if the United States is able to make a contribution to the financing of the destruction or liquidation of strategic offensive weapons in Russia) the Russian Federation and the United States will cut the total number of weapons of each of the sides to between 3,000 and 3,500 (as each side will determine for itself) or to lower levels which each of the sides will determine; all MIRVed ICBM's are to be liquidated; the number of SLBM's is to be reduced to a level of not above 1,750.

The two Presidents agreed that their two countries should work together with their allies and other interested states to draw up the concept for a global defense system against ballistic missiles as part of a common strategy toward the dissemination of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction. They also agreed to set up a high-level group to study on a priority basis, practical steps such as the potential for exchanging information in the early warning sphere and the potential for cooperation with participating states in the development of the means and the technology for defense against ballistic missiles.

The Presidents emphasized their support for the destruction of chemical weapons at a global level. They expressed their conviction that the Geneva negotiations on a multilateral convention to ban chemical weapons could be concluded by the end of August.

During the period of the cold war, the statement on questions of bilateral relations notes, the USSR and the United States created a whole range of obstacles for each other's official representatives, insofar as their carrying out of their functions and travelling around the country they were staying in were concerned. As Russia and the United States enter a new era of partnership and cooperation, these old barriers are turning into an anachronism. In this connection an accord has been reached in Washington to eliminate "closed areas" and to switch to a concept of "open land" as a basis for working out conditions for the travel of officials. George Bush and Boris Yeltsin assessed the signing of the documents as an event of enormous importance—not only for Russia and the United States, the Russian and American peoples, but also for the whole world in general.

Chemical Weapons Issues Agreed Upon

LD1806133492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0906 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] [No dateline as received]—President Yeltsin and President Bush have stressed their adherence to the elimination of chemical weapons at the global level. They expressed confidence that the Geneva talks on a multilateral convention on banning chemical weapons may be concluded by the end of August. They agreed to give relevant instructions to their representatives and appealed to all the participants in the talks to do everything possible to attain this goal. They expressed hope that within this time a conference at the ministerial level may be convened to endorse the convention.

Both presidents stressed their support for the memorandum on understanding with regard to step-by-step confidence building measures concluded in Wyoming in 1989, and agreed to implement the memorandum's provisions on the exchange of detailed information and inspections as soon as preparations are completed. They also agreed that the bilateral agreement on chemical weapons of June 1990 should be updated and should come into force promptly.

Joint Statement on Environment Issued

LD1806135192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 18 Jun 92

["Joint Statement by the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States, reaffirming their readiness to promote expansion of cooperation in the sphere of conservation of the environment and to further basic scientific research, state their resolve to preserve the unique ecosystem of Lake Baykal and to use its potential for research into limnology, geology, and global climate change.

To this end, the presidents of the two countries will strive to create the conditions for fruitful contacts between the relevant official departments, scientists, and non-governmental organizations, and to convene a conference of experts on the environment in the very near future to discuss issues in Russian-U.S. cooperation in the ecological sphere directed toward the preservation of this truly inimitable creation of nature for present and future generations.

Yeltsin Meets With Clinton

LD1806140992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1357 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Ivan Lebedev]

[Text] Washington June 18 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, on an official visit to the United States, met Arkansas governor and democratic presidential candidate Billy Clinton early on Thursday [18 June].

Before the meeting, Yeltsin told reporters that he is familiar with Clinton's election platform and that the governor supports expanding Russian-American cooperation and aid to Russia.

After the meeting Clinton described it as "very energetic and good". The two discussed the U.S. aid "package", he said.

Yeltsin's impressive speech in Congress will provide a powerful argument for U.S. lawmakers in favor of endorsing a bill to promote freedom, Clinton said.

Congressmen should endorse the bill because it is in line with key U.S. interests, he said.

Clinton praised a Russian-American agreement on deep cuts in strategic offensive weapons signed by Yeltsin and Bush

Clinton said that his position on help to Russia and Russian-American relations is similar to that of President George Bush.

Yeltsin Hosts Banquet for Bush

LD1806063992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0626 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Sizov and Andrey Shitov]

[Text] Washington June 18 TASS—The Russian delegation was not after a sensation, but was prepared for serious, tough work and its expectations have been justified—this is how Russian President Boris Yeltsin described the results of his first state visit to the United States, speaking at a dinner he hosted in President George Bush's honour in the Russian Embassy in Washington on Wednesday night [17 June].

Bush's four years of Presidency have coincided with great changes in the foreign policy of the two powers, Yeltsin said, commenting on Bush's contribution to the success of the current summit.

"Changes in Russia's foreign policy and in the policy of other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States are a personal credit of George Bush," Yeltsin said.

"He was the first to realize the importance of the August 19 of last year events and was the first of all heads of state to phone me in the White House to support our actions and say that the people of America were with us. George Bush showed vision and wisdom that were so much needed by Russia, the United States and global democracy," he said.

In a reply speech, Bush upheld Yeltsin's praise for the summit. He said he was certain that the Russian leadership's attempts to implement reforms will succeed eventually.

"We know that you are facing lots of difficulties at home, but we believe that on return from Washington you and your team of young leaders will be able to cope with problems facing you," Bush said.

Yeltsin Departs for Kansas

LD1806135892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington, 18 Jun—A brief farewell meeting was held this morning at the White House between U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is here on an official state visit. After this, Yeltsin went to the Washington monument in the city center where the official farewell ceremony was held. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker took part in it on the U.S. side. A honor guard made up of servicemen of all types of U.S. troops was formed in honor of Russia's president and there was an artillery salute. A military band played a solemn march. Then Yeltsin left by helicopter for Andrews Air Force Base, situated close to Washington, from where he flew to Wichita (Kansas).

Arrives in Kansas

LD1806205192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1702 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sizov and Andrey Sitov]

[Text] Wichita June 18 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Kansas on Thursday [18 June] to familiarise himself with individual farming in the United States.

Yeltsin is visiting the U.S. "breadbasket" at the invitation of Senator Robert Dole, republican minority leader in the U.S. Congress. Dole, who anticipated the break-up of the Soviet Union, invited Yeltsin to visit his home base soon after their first meeting in Moscow in September 1990.

Their friendship strengthened during the 1991 August putsch when Dole supported Yeltsin's resistance to the coup plotters and his drive for Russia's independence.

During his five-hour stay in Kansas, Yeltsin will visit Greg Rau, the owner of one of 73,000 farms in Kansas, tour a local meat-packing factory and make a speech at the university in Wichita.

Comments on Kansas Visit

LD1906100492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0840 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By special ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Sizov and Andrey Chytov]

[Text] Wichita—Aboard the presidential escort plane—June 19 TASS—The American State of Kansas often suffers from devastating sandstorms which bring a lot of misfortunes to people. This time, however, a salutary political thunderstorm swept through its soil. This is the general belief of local residents who were lucky enough to witness on Thursday [18 June] the first ever visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Kansas. The Russian leader arrived in the American hinterland at the invitation of influential Kansas Senator Robert Dole.

At a welcoming ceremony in the airport Yeltsin declared: "I brought to every Kansas family peace and tranquillity. Russians and Americans will never fight. As a president, I am convinced of that."

As the Russian president's visit to Kansas lasted only five hours, the delegation was hard-pressed for time. From the airport the president was taken to a meat processing plant of the large food corporation Hormel. After seeing the highly automated production process, Yeltsin frankly said: "In my life I probably saw hundreds of meat plants. But I've never seen such a miracle." In order to feed Russia, he continued, we need to build 20 such plants. Even if they cost 20 million dollars each.

Plant manager Dick Nolton presented to Yeltsin the firm's leather jacket. Yeltsin immediately reacted by putting his own jacket on Nolton to applause and approving laughter.

Thereafter the president's motorcade headed for Wichita University. The university has 17,000 students, but only 500 of them, including lecturers, could meet the head of the Russian state in the auditorium. Yeltsin mounted the podium to thunderous greetings that only young people are capable of.

Instead of reading from a prepared text, the Russian leader told the audience about the results of his visit to the United States, the pace of economic reform in Russia. The importance of these reforms, Yeltsin said, "is especially obvious to young people, who understand that they have a greater freedom of choice than a year ago or two, three or ten years ago. One should live and work in the name of this."

In conclusion the president of the university announced the decision of the administration to contribute to developing youth exchanges between Russia and the United States. He told about establishing two special scholarships, 10,000 dollars each, for young people from Russia.

Yeltsin wound up his stay in Kansas by visiting Graig Row's family farm. On mutual agreement the meeting between Yeltsin and the farmer's family was confidential.

From Wichita the Russian delegation left for Ottawa.

Arrives in Canada

LD1806130192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1050 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Vasilets]

[Text] Ottawa June 18 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrives in Canada on the first state visit on Thursday [18 June] evening (in the early hours of Friday [19 June] Moscow time).

The local press wrote in the run-up to his visit that Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Yeltsin have many topics for discussion. One of them is progress in reforms in Russia and the West. In the group of the world's seven leading industrialised powers, Canada firmly lists itself among the states that believe the West should help Russia carry through transformations more energetically. As for matching these declarations with deeds, Ottawa holds that it does more than others: If the volume of financial support to former Soviet republics is measured in relation to the population of the donor country, in its generosity Canada will be second only to Germany.

Judging by preparations for the visit, the Russian side is interested in the increased and more rapid inflow on investment and the use of Canadian expertise in such areas as oil production, the mining industry and agriculture. An agreement on cooperation in the agrarian sector is expected to be signed during the visit. For the present, this cooperation is of a purely commercial nature and amounts to systematic purchases of Canadian grain. The two countries' business people will meet in parallel with the visit to Toronto and Montreal.

Russia and Canada are two leading Arctic powers and both countries prioritise cooperation in this region. The course of expanding areas of polar cooperation will evidently be confirmed during talks in Ottawa.

Foreign policy problems are also expected to be raised during the visit, especially since a separate meeting between the foreign ministers is planned. Russia and Canada found themselves directly involved in the Yugoslav events: Both states sent their troop contingents within the UN forces there. In addition, in Canada they cannot ignore the reaction of the communities of people of Yugoslav descent and, therefore, are particularly sensitive to the development of events in that remote country.

Praises Relations With Canada

LD1906064192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0638 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Yuriy Sizov, and Andrey Shitov]

[Text] Ottawa June 19 TASS—Russia strives to establish normal relations with various countries of the world as soon as possible, and Canada occupies a special place among them as an honest and relaible partner, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said on Thursday [18 June] upon arrival on a state visit to Canada.

Russia has to make up for what has been lost in the past when the policy has for long been determined by ideological dogmas. "We have resolutely abandoned the practice. Now the aim is to promote fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation as soon as possible", the president said.

Yeltsin added he plans to sign a number of documents during the visit, including "unprecedented for our relations treaty on cooperation." "We strive to open a new era in our relations, to pull down all barriers which have been separating us so far. Their time has gone and we have to say farewell to that part of the heritage which impedes movement ahead", he stressed.

Long distance separating Russia and Canada is no obstacle for cooperation. When a full-scale dialogue begins "we shall feel in full how close our countries are, how alike our people are in their wish for peace and good-neighbourliness", Yeltsin said.

Also on Thursday [18 June], Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney gave an unofficial dinner in honour of his Russian guest.

On Friday [19 June] the two leaders will first have a one-to-one meeting and will later be joined by the delegations. The Russian president will address the parliament, sign joint documents, meet parliamentary opposition.

On Saturday [20 June], Yeltsin will fly to Montreal to meet the premier of Quebec and local businessmen.

Further on Status of POW's, MIA's in Russia

Joint Statement Reported

LD1806171492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0951 GMT 18 Jun 92

["Joint Statement on Prisoners-of-war and Missing Persons"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Proceeding from mutual obligations to end the uncertainty surrounding what happened to prisoners of war and missing persons, and with a view to reuniting separated families, the President of the United States and the president of the Russian Federation reaffirmed the importance of the work of the bilateral American-Russian commission, which was set up 26 March 1992 to discover what happened to prisoners-of-war and missing persons.

Within the framework of the bilateral commission, the experts of both countries exchanged information about missing servicemen received from archive sources, and also from individuals having information regarding these cases. Both presidents noted with satisfaction that already at the initial stage of work, the bilateral commission achieved noticeable results in clarifying what happened to American prisoners-of-war and missing perons in the period since the second world war and until the Vietnamese conflict. The commission will carefully and thoroughly verify any information about prisoners-of-war and missing persons, including that which was made available by the president of the Russian Federation, which points to the fact that a certain number of U.S. servicemen were held on the territory of the Soviet Union in the post-war period. The United States and Russia intend to obtain as full as possible, an account about what happened to each of these American prisoners-of-war and missing persons.

In the case of American servicemen being found living in Russia, the commission will offer aid in repatriating those of them who might wish to return to the United States. The commission will also assist with returning the remains of American soldiers whose graves are discovered. The United States is ready to make further offers of its good offices in order to help with the liberation and voluntary return of former Soviet prisoners-of-war being held in Afghanistan.

The President of the United States of America and the president of the Russian Federation have again confirmed their resolve to continue this process in a spirit of good will and cooperation and with the complete understanding of both sides that in the conditions of the new era of trust and partnership in American-Russian relations, questions from the past which remain unanswered require thorough and objective examination under public scrutiny.

Both presidents pledge to treat with complete openness any information received which concerns missing American and Russian servicemen.

Pessimism Noted

LD1706230192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Correspondent Reshetnikov report from Washington; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Russian president has called on U.S. legislators not to let the issue of the search for U.S. POW's missing without a trace to complicate the process of improving relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Dmitriy Volkogonov, who was in Washington for the opening of the Russian archives exhibition, is rather pessimistic on this account:

[Begin Volkogonov recording] My intuition tells me there could be a lot of mystification here. After all, our society has been quite open for the past five years, and if there were such a U.S. citizen he could have had an opportunity already to make his case known, to tell someone, to write a letter, or to appeal somewhere. [end recording]

Information of POW in Pechora Noted

LD1706191692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 17 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In a personal talk today between Yeltsin and Bush, the wish was expressed that the question of the fate of American pilot (David Markin) should be looked into. He allegedly had been taken prisoner during the Korean war.

The American side stated that, according to its information, he was, and still is, in the PL-350 camp in Pechora.

As a sign of goodwill, the Russian leadership has decided that a joint flight will be made to Pechora by a representative of the U.S. Embassy and members of the Russian-American commission for determining the fates of U.S. prisoners of war who disappeared in the USSR during or after World War II.

The commission will fly to Pechora tomorrow.

Commission Flies to Pechora

LD1806173592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1559 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Skripnikov]

[Text] Moscow June 18 TASS—A U.S. embassy official and three members of the joint U.S.-Russia commission on prisoners of war and those missing in action flew to a prison camp in the Northern Russian city of Pechora on Thursday [18 June] in search for clues about the fate of an American citizen allegedly held there.

A Russian Foreign Ministry official told ITAR-TASS that the American side had not named its sources of information about the captured American serviceman who they believe is still alive in a Russian prison camp in the area.

Americans tracking POWs and MIAs appealed to the Russian-American joint commission headed by Dmitriy Volkogonov for help in verifying their information.

Joint Commission Deputy Chief Vladimir Kozlov flew to Pechora with the Americans to help with the arrangements on the spot.

The Americans, in pursuit of their own search project, are planning to meet both the present and the former chief of the labour camp where they insist the U.S. citizen is being held. They also want to study the archives.

The commission panel members are expected to return to Moscow on Friday [19 June].

Commission Finds No Trace of POW

LD1906104492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0946 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow June 19 TASS—No trace of U.S. POWs was found by American experts from the joint Russian-U.S. POWs/MIAs Commission in the Pechora Camp, TASS learned from the Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday [19 June].

The experts visited the camp on Thursday [18 June] and studied documents there.

However, the head of the group expressed gratitude to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Government for making the trip possible. He told a press conference in Pechora on Friday [19 June] his group will announce its final conclusions after the documents provided by the Pechora Camp Administration are studied in full.

Joint U.S. Statement on Bosnia-Hercegovina

LD1806132992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0903 GMT 18 Jun 92

["Russian-U.S. Statement on Bosnia-Hercegovina"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—1. The Russian Federation and the United States are deeply worried about the continuing human tragedy on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. They condemn those who are responsible for not carrying out the demands of the relevant UN resolutions, and appeal to all UN members to carry out in full, and to effectively observe Resolution 757 of the UN Security Council.

2. The Russian Federation and the United States decisively support the present UN efforts to set up a security zone around the airport in Sarajevo as the first step toward ensuring the safe delivery of humanitarian aid to the civilian population of Bosnia-Hercegovina. They are following closely the degree of solidarity with these efforts of Belgrade, the political leaders of the Bosnian Serbs, and the commanders of the armed forces in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

3. Within the framework of the common efforts of the United Nations, the Russian Federation and the United States are ready to join in the UN measures to supply humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Hercegovina. They appeal to

other members of the international community to join them and the other states that are already actively participating in this humanitarian mission.

Joint U.S. Business Information Service Opens

LD1706164492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Sitov]

[Text] Washington June 17 TASS—Russia's and America's desire to develop mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation was patently illustrated on the first day of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's state visit to the U.S.

A ceremony to open a new business information service took place in the U.S. Department of Commerce on Tuesday [16 June]. The service is called upon to respond to any inquiries from U.S. companies that are interested in mastering the markets of Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union. The ceremony was attended by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Barbara Franklin and Pyotr Aven, Russian minister for foreign economic relations.

Addressing those present, the U.S. commerce secretary said the United States wanted to be Russia's number one trading partner and investor. "And let me make clear, helping Russia also helps America by creating jobs at home and opening new markets abroad," she said.

Aven pointed out, for his part, that the Russian Government seeks to attract foreign investments in the interests of national revival. He recognised that the remaining political uncertainty in Russia serves as a strong restraining factor in this process.

The U.S. commerce secretary and the Russian minister confirmed that bilateral agreements on investments and taxation would be signed during the current summit.

A series of new contracts signed on Tuesday [16 June] serve as an illustration that solid legal foundations are being laid for the development of trade and economic cooperation, which will undoubtedly promote U.S. companies' mass influx to the Russian market.

The aggregate value of the contracts in question is estimated at 213 million dollars. Several other agreements signed are aimed at developing the Russian oil industry.

North Korean Student Granted Political Asylum

LD1606153692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 16 TASS—The Russian president granted political asylum to North Korean citizen Kim Men Se [name as received] on Monday [15 June].

The North Korean authorities said in a statement that Men Se, a senior student of physics of the Moscow University "was a criminal who had committed grave criminal and economic offenses" both in North Korea and towards North Korean citizens in Russia.

However, neither the North Korean authorities, nor the North Korean Embassy in Moscow did reveal the essence of the "crimes".

As no official documents proving the charges brought against Men Se were submitted to the Russian Foreign Ministry, it decided to grant him the status of a political refugee.

Men Se has been hiding of late in a Moscow apartment fearing reprisals from North Korean Secret Services.

Korean Official: 'Russia Shelters Criminals'

LD1606200392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1601 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondet Vasaliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow June 16 TASS—The North Korean ambassador in Moscow was taken aback by the Russian decision to grant political asylum to North Korean post-graduate student Kim Men Tse and accused Russia of sheltering criminals.

Ambassador Song Sung Pil told TASS he had been discussing the fate of Kim Men Tse with Russian Foreign Ministry officials early on Tuesday [16 June] who promised to solve the problem according to international rules and said nothing about the presidential decree on granting political asylum which had already been signed.

North Korea accuses Men Tse of criminal activities at home and against its citizens in Russia.

The granting of political asylum means Russia shelters criminals, the ambassador said, but refused to disclose which crimes Men Tse had committed.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said it regards Men Tse as political refugee as no documents proving the accusations had been provided by the North Korean side.

New Nagorno-Karabakh Mediator Appointed

MK1706131992 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 25 21 Jun 92 (Signed to Press 16 Jun 92) p 2

[Unattributed report under the general heading: "Appointments"]

[Excerpt] The 63-year-old diplomat Vladimir Kazimirov has become special envoy and head of Russia's mediation mission in Nagorno-Karabakh.

His appointment means that Russia, in addition to participating in the CSCE and UN effort to resolve the Karabakh conflict, aspires to a special position. During a conversation with your MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI correspondent Kazimirov admitted that "Russia will carry out its mediation mission autonomously, but will also support all other ventures." The Azerbaijan Embassy remarked that this is the "natural course of events since we are all too interconnected." The Armenian Embassy was reserved and commented that the new envoy's diplomatic abilities may stand him in good stead. [passage omitted]

Statement Welcomes Easing of COCOM Restrictions

LD1606144292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jun—The results of the latest COCOM meeting in Paris (1-2 June 1992) will promote the unification of export control systems; the liberalization of COCOM restrictions and, in the final analysis, an acceleration in the process of integrating Russia and other CIS states in the world community. This was said in a statement by the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, which was circulated today.

We understand, the document says, that the removal of COCOM restrictions is closely connected with the effectiveness of the system being set up in Russia and the CIS states to monitor exports of weapons, materials, and technologies used for weapons production, and also those of a dual purpose. Russia, the statement stresses, is ready to give corresponding guarantees not to use Western technologies that are being received for military developments and to exclude the handover of them to third countries, particularly to those that are striving to possess nuclear, chemical, biological, and missile weaponry.

Russia welcomes certain advances in the position of Western countries aimed at the liberalization of a number of COCOM restrictions, in particular, on deliveries of telecommunications equipment to the CIS. At the same time, the statement notes, the removal of these restrictions "can hardly be considered as an adequate response to the political changes in the world", since they do not fully remove discriminatory clauses with regard to CIS states. The document says that the COCOM proposals adopted at the latest meeting will promote the development of cooperation at an equal rights level between Russia and other CIS states within the framework of COCOM and "we are ready for close cooperation, even to the extent of participating in that organization".

Dubynin Views Polish Compensation Claims

PM1806120992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jun 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Colonel General Viktor Dubynin by Captain Third Rank M. Khondoshko; date and place of interview not stated: "Colonel General Viktor Dubynin: 'We Are Hoping for Good Will'"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] And so the final stage of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Polish territory has begun. Polish Republic President L. Walesa's visit to Moscow and the signing of the treaty on friendship and mutually advantageous cooperation and of the agreement on the withdrawal of the Northern Group of Forces, which have been covered and commented on only very sparingly by the Russian mass media, have for better or worse untangled the dense knot of problems connected with that process. The practical implementation of the accords which were reached has begun.

Our nonstaff correspondent met with Colonel General V. Dubynin, chief of general staff of the armed forces and first deputy defense minister of the Russian Federation, who until recently was the Russian Federation's fully empowered representative for the presence of Russian troops on Polish territory, and asked him to answer a number of questions.

[Khondoshko] Viktor Petrovich, what is the importance of the documents signed in Moscow?

[Dubynin] It is very hard to overestimate them. The peoples of our countries have confirmed through their presidents their desire to live in friendship and cooperation on a mutually advantageous basis.

[Khondoshko] But the Polish mass media interpret Walesa's signing of the documents in Moscow exclusively as a victory for their president over Russian diplomacy. How far to the documents which have been signed suit our side?

[Dubynin] It is too late to speak about it. With the signing of the agreement on withdrawal the "zero" option of accounting was enshrined. We are handing over to the Poles the establishments we have constructed free of charge to pay for the repair of establishments leased from Poland by the Russian troops. And the lion's share of the cost of the establishments constructed by the former USSR Defense Ministry will go to pay for so-called ecological damage.

[Khondoshko] Consequently the agreement on the withdrawal of the Southern Group of Forces does not provide for the receipt of funds to construct housing for officers and ensigns in Russia?

[Dubynin] I would not give an unequivocal answer on that score. During our recent meeting President Walesa said that he would like to do more than is enshrined in the treaty and the protocol on property and financial issues. That he will take steps to render every kind of assistance in resolving the housing problems of the families of the officers and ensigns withdrawn from Poland. That it is necessary urgently to create joint commissions at intergovernment level which would prepare the relevant projects and report as early as August to the two countries' presidents on how precisely to implement them.

On the one hand the Poles are interested in the speediest withdrawal of our troops. On the other, President Walesa said, they are not in favor of the families of officers and ensigns leaving to live in tents on Russian territory. The president said that the Polish side is prepared to render assistance in construcing housing on Russian territory but "Poland is poor and we have no money." The Poles count on involving the Western states in the solution of this problem and on their financial aid in the form of the relevant credits.

Inasmuch as you have no money, we say to the Poles, we offer our own option for finding funds for constructing housing for the servicemen of the Northern Group of Forces. We are handing over more than 300 military townships of which a miserly proportion (4-6 percent) can be sold either to joint Russian-Polish ventures or to interested Polish firms. That will be 10-15 establishments which have been fully constructed using the estimate of the USSR Defense Ministry. The sums which are made for the sale of these establishments could be channeled into financing housing construction in the interests of the homeless Norther Group of Forces servicemen withdrawn to Russia.

But so far the Polish side is rejecting our option. Since that is so, we have been obliged to dismantle movable property from these establishments, which could bring in a real profit even now. After dismantling, these establishments will essentially become unfit for operation for the purpose for which they were constructed. Thus, fuel bases and fuel depots from which the guard systems and fire fighting and fuel pumping equipment have been removed will no longer be fuel storage depots. At the will of the Polish side by means of this dismantling we are putting the establishment out of commission. We are suggesting: Buy the establishment from us in full working order and with all the equipment, but we are failing to meet with understanding, or to be more precise the relevant decision and authorization. We do not have the right to leave behind expensive equipment free of charge. We are obliged to remove the machinery and units to Russia and thus benefit Russia at least a little and retain at least some proportion of our property. This solution suits neither the Poles nor us. But we have no other way out.

[Khondoshko] Viktor Petrovich, returning to the "zero" option of the agreement, I want to ask: Will the Polish side not have new claims on the plane of compensation for ecological damage? After all, in that draft, as enshrined in the protocol on property and financial questions, you can "add on" whatever you like to compensation for "the ecological damage which could arise as a result of the withdrawal of the Northern Group of Forces." There is a fear that the "zero" option will be a big minus for us.

[Dubynin] Indeed, the Polish side is seeking to interpret the "zero" option as the opportunity for additional payment for ecological damage which will allegedly be caused after the signing of the agreement on the withdrawal of the Northern Group of Forces. In Article 2 of the protocol on property and financial issues we have written that as of the day this protocol enters into force the contracting parties deem mutual claims connected with the establishments which are being handed over and also claims connected with ecological damage to have been settled. There should seemingly be no doubts: No one owes anyone anything. But the Polish side is now interpreting this article as "zero" as of the day of checking. They want to conduct an ecological check before 15 July. After that date the Poles again intend to turn on the calculator and when the withdrawal is completed to lodge financial claims against Russia for the damage which the withdrawn troops cause Poland.

We disagree with that position. We agree that for the next 18 months our units will be under the control of Poland's State Inspectorate for Environmental Conservation. Its workers have the right to lodge claims with us for ecological violations. We shall take the relevant measures to prevent them and to eliminate the consequences. For instance, if we have set up a garbage dump somewhere we shall remove it, if we have allowed fuel leakages somewhere, we shall carry out recultivation. But no more. Financial accounts should not be submitted to us. Our position does not suit the Polish side. Here too it is doing everything to try to obtain some one-sided advantage. Knowing how the people who head Poland's State Inspectorate for Environmental Conservation are against us, I can predict with a large amount of confidence the situation in which they will unilaterally make demands of trillions of zloty as fines for the slightest ecological violation.

[Khondoshko] Nonetheless, as far as I understand your position, in your new post as the Russian Government's fully empowered representative you will actively defend the country's interests...

[Dubynin] Naturally. And we shall achieve a situation in which there is no detriment to Russian interests. We shall try in line with the accords to sell our movable property which it is not expedient to remove to Russia because of the substantial transport costs and receive a certain sum for this property. We are hoping for the good will of the Polish side in obtaining certain sums from the sale of immovable property. We are counting on the verbal agreement reached in Moscow between the leaders of the two countries which proclaims that the Polish side will display good will and do everything to promote the provision of facilities for the withdrawn troops. We shall take every step to obtain funds to construct housing through the sale of immovable property on a legal basis and through the creation of joint ventures on the basis of the establishments left behind.

But we cannot exceed the framework of our competence. The solution of our problems largely depends on the position of our government. We have sent our proposals to the relevant ministries for agreement. And they should be examined and implemented by a joint Russian-Polish commission which will work at intergovernment level.

Incidentally, President L. Walesa stated during our meeting that this commission should start work as soon as possible. Moreover, he is prepared personally to head it on the Polish side and thus render aid to our servicemen. How fruitfully this commission will work, time will tell.

Official on Effects of Lithuanian Referendum

OW1606141692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1303 GMT 16 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" by correspondents Igor Porshnev and Boris Grishchenko; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leader of the Russia delegation to the talks with Lithuania Viktor Isakov described the recent referendum in Lithuania as an internal affair of a sovereign state. He added, however, that it may be perceived as an element of pressure. Most of the participants in the referendum said they favoured the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Lithuania in 1992 and the payment of a compensation for the damage inflicted by the troops on Lithuania in the period from 1940 to 1992.

Viktor Isakov told DP [Diplomatic Panorama] that the schedule of withdrawal proposed by Lithuania was absolutely unreal. Even if there were enough housing for the servicemen, it would be impossible to withdraw the troops in 1992. Besides that, said Isakov, this problem cannot be considered outside the context of the withdrawal of the former union and now Russian troops from Germany, Poland and other former union republics.

Commenting on Lithuania's demand that Russia pay Lithuania a compensation of some 150 billion dollars, Isakov said that this demand was illogical. The Soviet army belonged to all of the former union republics. "Why should the damage inflicted by it on Lithuania be paid by Russia alone?" he said.

Isakov said he doubted the criteria used by Lithuanian experts to evaluate the size of the damage and compensation. He said that the referendum may complicate the Russian-Lithuanian talks. The position of Lithuania which insists that military issues become a subject of special talks is not productive either.

And yet, Isakov does not lose optimism. He said that Lithuania was offered about 30 programmes which could promote Russian-Lithuanian relations.

Joint Ventures With Foreign Countries Viewed

OW1606043392

[Editorial Report] Moscow INTERFAX in English, as received via Tokyo KYODO at 1855 GMT on 11 June, carries the following in its weekly "Statistical Data" feature:

FOREIGN PARTNERS IN RUSSIAN JOINT VENTURES

(According to data as of April 23 1992 provided by the League of Joint Ventures and International Associations and Organizations)

	Number of joint ventures	Total authorized capital (ruble million)
Afghanistan	2	1.224
Argentine	3	4.063
Australia	32	63.776
Austria	164	605.095
Bangladesh	1	0.200
Belgium	37	112.410
Brazil	4	37.540
Bulgaria	56	147.017
Canada	71	327.940
China	46	55.681
Columbia	1	1.000
Cyprus	29	337.540
Czechoslovakia	8	31.598
Denmark	15	12.067
Egypt	2	6.000
Finland	208	391.296
France	90	500.569
Germany	373	781.033
Great Britain	122	228.388

Greece	9	8.233
Hong Kong	2	0.300
Hungary	51	173.887
Iceland	1	0.200
India	43	66.160
Indonesia	1	n.a.
Iran	5	1.510
Iraq	9	21.043
Israel	5	5.170
Italy	198	1,037.566
Japan	43	138.266
Jordan	5	4.649
Kuwait	6	5.000
Lebanon	6	6.665
Liechtenstein	19	312.882
Luxembourg	9	2.410
Malaysia	2	n.a.
Malta	2	1.500
Mongolia	1	0.062
Netherlands	22	22.622
New Zealand	1	0.500
Nigeria	1	n.a.
North Korea	7	26.990
Norway	12	17.897
Oman	1	1.150
Pakistan	3	13.820
Panama	7	8.956
Philippines	2	0.843
Poland	109	138.232
Saudi Arabia	2	3.150
Singapore	31	23.888
South Korea	2	1.006
Spain	34	65.097
Sweden	212	519.163
Switzerland	79	457.960
Syria	11	9.125
Thailand	3	0.160
Turkey	12	14.144
United Arab Emirates	4	4.200
United States	398	11,033.709
Venezuela	8	102.632
Vietnam	11	7.689
Yugoslavia	50	252.367
Data not available	40	186.759
Total	2,747	18,343.083

Federation Affairs

Shakhray on Resignation, CPSU Inquiry

PM1806135392 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 1

[Interview with Sergey Shakhray by A. Yevtushenko; date and place of interview not stated: "Sergey Shakhray: 'Serving as a Screen for Someone Would Be Dishonest'"]

[Text] [Yevtushenko] There are a number of versions of the reason for your resignation from the post of Russian vice premier and state adviser for legal policy. I should like to hear about this at first hand.

[Shakhray] It is not hard to note that recently both at the top and locally the call to struggle against totalitarianism and imperial thinking has been heard increasingly frequently. Those who stand to gain from this are trying to transfer to the Russian leadership these concepts, applicable to another country which no longer exists, to another regime, and to other people. And above all they are trying to transfer them to the president. The image of Yeltsin as dictator is hanging in the air. Perhaps that is the result of imprecise analysis. But most likely these conclusions are the card which the opponents of reforms are playing. But it is clear that it is not the strength of state power but the lack of it which threatens us. That is why Russian laws are being violated by any official at any level. And nothing happens to him for doing it. We have the vestiges of party power, we have the power of the military-industrial complex. But state power which could introduce order is virtually nonexistent. But it should exist.

If we are speaking of the threat of a dictatorship, it does exist, but from the other side. I mentioned this at the last congress. But few people paid attention: They were all taken up with the domestic struggle, with the government resignations, and so forth. This threat comes from the national-patriotic fascistizing organizations and groupings for which really beneficial conditions exist right now. That is the traumatized mentality and national consciousness of millions of people. Primarily of Russians [russkikh, rossiyan].

Our national self-awareness in no way coincides yet with Russia's borders. We have grown accustomed to thinking on the scales of the Union. And with its collapse the great nation feels bereft. By analogy with the Weimar Republic of Germany, a war was lost then, territory had been lost, and there was an economic crisis. The idea of national resurrection is readily taken up and Adolf Hitler comes to power by election.

In our country the situation is identical, the ground has already been prepared, and I am almost sure that in the fall or winter of this year, or before the referendum, if it is scheduled, an attempt will be made to remove President Yeltsin from power. I cannot say by whom specifically. Most likely it will be a "group of working people" from which a leader will then emerge.

The first shock wave will be the discrediting of Yeltsin as an individual. And it is already under way. The second will be the recording of his inaccurate legal actions. One decree has already been repealed—on the merging of the Ministry of Security with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Another two or three similar decisions from the Constitutional Court and it will be possible boldly to raise the question of replacing the president. Perhaps his opponents will succeed in creating a situation in which Yeltsin will be obliged to resign.

The arena where all this will happen will most likely be the Russian parliament. An attempt will again be made to draw the vice president into this procedure. In the absence of an alternative leader a collective organ is ready—the Security Council, which under the law on security has every opportunity for putting itself above the legislative and executive authorities, uniting their "best" representatives. That is a possible path for the transfer of power. And the Supreme Soviet—an analysis of its members attests to this—could undertake this with pleasure. A question of life and death is about to arise for it: the Congress or the president. Far too many key positions in the Supreme Soviet are held by communists who are leaders. The conservative circles of the military, the military-industrial complex, and the party nomenklatura are interested in removing Yeltsin from his post. The situation is also made dangerous by the fact that the process is under way of their occupation of leading posts not only in parliament but also in economic, government, and other structures. God grant that I am mistaken in my forecast.

I am sure that the question of whether we shall manage to avoid this scenario this year depends largely on whether the land is handed out, whether property owners appear in our society, and how quickly the privatization program proceeds. It seems to me that many reforming decisions will not pass through this Supreme Soviet—they do not need it. And another thing: In the narrow sense the fate of the reforms depends on whether levers are found to make the bureaucrats' class their ally. So far they have not been found.

This assessment of the situation which, incidentally, does not coincide with the president's, has compelled me constantly to suggest more resolute, radical measures to step up state power, including executive power, to implement reforms, and to combat crime and so forth. But month after month everything has remained as it was. A certain group for delaying reforms has formed around the president. And when I have been in practice removed from decisionmaking by this group, it would be dishonest to sit in the government and puff myself up to obtain posts and serve as someone's screen.

[Yevtushenko] In your view, how will the Constitutional Court's examination of the case of the constitutionality of the president's decrees on the CPSU and the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Communist Party end?

[Shakhray] From the constitutional viewpoint these decrees are entirely lawful. Moreover, to all appearances the outcome will be not the "indictment" of the president, as our opponents are seeking, but the unconstitutional activity of the organization which called itself the CPSU will be revealed in full. And it is important that we have no desire to reduce this process to a Nuremberg trial. Only a purely historical analogy is possible here: Both ideologists led to tragedy. We shall stand on a purely legal basis. And, of course, we do not intend to initiate criminal prosecution against anyone. Although there is no statute of limitations on crimes against humanity and one's own people.

A number of newspapers, including those I respect, have published opinions that, yes, the CPSU was a bad organization and its leaders committed many crimes in their time. But in publishing decrees on the cessation of the activity of party structures the president has allegedly exceeded his powers and invaded the hierarchy of legislative and legal power.

The president's decrees are built on the fact that the CPSU and the Russian Communist Party were not parties in either the actual or the legal respect. And consequently legislation on parties does not apply to them. But let us nonetheless for a minute adopt the stance of defenders of the CPSU and allow one legal fiction: That the CPSU has become a normal party. And from this "vantage-point" let us look at the question of that party's registration and the compliance of its activity with the Constitution and legislation.

By the time the disputed decrees were published, there was on Russian territory not a legal but an administrative procedure for halting the activity of public associations and disposing of their property. It was introduced in 1932, by a resolution of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and the Soviet of People's Commissars. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium of the present convening has not recognized the operation on its territory of the 9 October 1990 USSR law, except for that part which concerned the procedure for registering public associations. It is that procedure which has been violated by the CPSU, while the RSFSR Communist Party has not recorded the fact of its existence at the Russian Ministry of Justice. The act of registration of the CPSU, implemented on the basis of the legally binding act signed by L. Voronin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, is legally invalidated by virtue of article 12 of the union law "on public associations," which prescribes the refusal to register charters which do not provide for a procedure for halting the activity of public associations. The CPSU has such faith in its indestructibility that it "forgot" to establish the procedure for its withdrawal from the political arena.

With regard to the CPSU's property there have not been confiscations or nationalizations. What was carried out was simply a redistribution of state funds within the confines of the state treasury: After all, the communist structures flourished at the expense of their source, autocratically disposing of the people's funds.

Ex-Minister Lopukhin Becomes Government Adviser

OW1806162492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1413 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to IF [INTERFAX] sources, Russia's ex-minister for fuel and power-engineering Vladimir Lopukhin, who resigned in May, has been appointed the government's adviser in international economic cooperation and in questions pertaining to the fuel resources and power engineering.

Yeltsin Instructs Gaydar To Sign Rand Deal

OW1706135292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has instructed Yegor Gaydar to sign an agreement with the Rand Corporation on behalf of Russia upon the attainment of corresponding understanding. The agreement is expected to envisage joint research in the socioeconomic and political spheres, and in the reformation of Russian society and economy; mutual assistance in training personnel, and mutual financing of joint projects.

Rutskoy Discusses 'Disagreements' in Government

LD1806212792

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1745 GMT on 18 June carries the live or recorded "Without Retouching" program, moderated by Sergey Torchinskiy and Tatyana Krasnova, with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and various international and domestic reporters. The program follows its usual format in which journalists are allowed five minutes to ask their questions and the guest is allotted a 10-minute opening statement, which Rutskoy declines to make.

During the 70-minute program Rutskoy replies to the journalists' questions, which cover a variety of topics. The vice president comments on agriculture, agrarian reform, and protection for armed forces personnel in the republics. He goes on to handle a question on reported tension with the Russian leadership, saying that it is useless to gossip on such a subject when there is so much work to be done.

Rutskoy expresses his satisfaction with being put in charge of the agriculture portfolio, which he describes as today's biggest priority. He also comments on strike threats by farmers, noting that many have been reduced to despair by the agricultural situation.

The vice president also comments on Shakhray's recent prediction in KOMMERSANT, which hinted that

Yeltsin could by overthrown, saying he laughed when he read it. He points out that he finds humanitarian aid offensive.

In response to a question on the rising crime rate, Rutskoy traces the problem to inadequate provisions for citizens. People must know that they will be able to fulfill their requirements, he says.

Rutskoy goes on to point out that the law and the constitution must reign supreme in affairs of the state. He also comments on his recent appearance at the Congress of Patriotic Forces, saying that he wanted to hear what the participants had to say.

In response to a question on who is actually hampering progress, Rutskoy blames some persons who lack experience in decisionmaking, citing Gaydar and Shokhin in particular. He says Russia needs more administrators rather than economists.

He later comments on his disagreements with the State Committee on Land Reform and defends his own concept of land reform, which involves a series of land banks rather than soviets.

The vice president is then reminded that he is considered sympathetic with redshirts and brownshirts. He claims that he has never personally met with Makashov and that he has never deviated from his positions. He says that he is against dividing society up into segments, pointing out that this can only lead to bloodshed.

Regarding whether or not the CPSU should be put on trial, Rutskoy says the fate of the CPSU funds must be investigated. He notes that he had predicted that the party would collapse even before it happened.

Answering a final question, Rutskoy discusses national patriotism and states that he hopes that the Russian flag is never lowered over the Black Sea Fleet. The motherland, he says, must be defended.

Grachev Meets Disbanded Inspectors-General

PM1906084392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by Lieutenant Colonel A. Dokuchayev: "And the Marshals Are Going Into the Reserves"]

[Text] On 13 June Army General P. Grachev, Russian defense minister, met with marshals and generals from the military department's inspectors-general group, which is terminating its activity.

The inspectors-general group was established 30 January 1958 as an integral part of the USSR Defense Ministry apparatus, in a period when the Armed Forces were being considerably reduced. The reduction campaign had affected military commanders too. With a view to utilizing their great experience, it was decided to form a special group in order to extend the service of the most meritorious of them—mostly participants in the Great Patriotic War.

And now the Defense Ministry inspectors-general group is terminating its activity. It was abolished by the Russian president's decree of 11 January this year. At that time 53 chief marshals, marshals of combat arms, and army generals were discharged into the reserve or retired. On 13 June the military commanders gathered for their last service event—a meeting with the defense minister.

The inspectors-general group had highly honored people working in it—participants in the Great Patriotic War and other wars and heroes of the Soviet Union. They carved out their careers on the battlefields and in the difficult postwar years when the fatherland's Armed Forces and revolutionary transformations in them were being established. Who, for instance, does not know about Marshal of Aviation Nikolay Skomorokhov, twice Hero of the Soviet Union? He had a tally of dozens of enemy aircraft shot down during the Great Patriotic War.

But time, as they say, makes its own laws. Active military service cannot go on forever. Incidentally, the military commanders themselves agree with the presidential decree's contents. This is also a logical step because the military department is being reduced—its central apparatus in particular—and its budget is also decreasing. The inspectors-general group entails, apart from the financial allowance for generals and marshals, expenditure on pay for several dozen warrant officers and aides-de-camp, adjutants, secretariat staff, a sizable vehicle fleet....

By the way, nobody is booting the generals and marshals out of the Army, as other mass media are trying to make out. They are going into the reserves or retirement in a civilized fashion. People in military units and establishments will be glad to have them, Army General Grachev stated at the meeting. He noted that among the troops they are known as energetic builders of the Army and Navy and good tutors. Whole generations of Russian soldiers have been tutored in the feats of many of them and will continue to be so tutored.

An order on rewarding military commanders was announced at the meeting. Marshals of the Soviet Union Sergey Sokolov, Nikolay Ogarkov, and Vasiliy Petrov have been awarded engraved weapons—pistols—and other marshals and generals have been awarded officers' daggers.

Importance of Foreign Intelligence Bill Eyed

LD1906095692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0856 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 19 TASS—The importance of a bill regulating the activity of foreign intelligence, recently passed in the first reading by both chambers of the

Russian parliament, is that it marks the first time that the law determines the status, legal foundations of organisation and functioning of this agency, control over its activity. This comment was made in a CRIME-PRESS interview by press secretary of the Foreign Intelligence Service Tatyana Samolis.

The key elements of the document are as follows, Samolis said:

—Foreign intelligence is a constituent part of ensuring security of Russia,

—Intelligence activity is carried out by special state agencies set up for this purpose,

—Bodies of foreign intelligence are designed to defend the security of individual, society, and the state from outside threats,

—General guidance over the bodies of foreign intelligence shall be carried out by the president of the Russian Federation,

—Results of intelligence activity shall be reported to supreme bodies of state power and administration of Russia,

—Control over the activity of foreign intelligence shall be exercised by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

As for changes in the operation of the foreign intelligence service, which will inevitably necessitate the adoption of law, it is too early to speak about it, Samolis commented. It is hard to say anything specific about the numeric strength of the service, because the bill does not regulate that matter.

"For the first time in the history of our state," the press secretary emphasised, "the law raises a barrier to arbitrary use of foreign intelligence by a narrow circle of people and any parties. Methods of work used by intelligence should not infringe on the rights and freedoms of citizens or run counter to the applicable democratic legislation."

'Campaign' To Restore KGB Functions Viewed

PM1806113192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Mostovshchikov: "Border Guards Return to the Chekists' Ranks"]

[Text] At 1500 hours on 15 June Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov officially informed his contemporary, 52-year-old Lieutenant General Vladimir Shlyakhtin, of his appointment as his deputy and commander in chief of the Russian Border Forces. In accordance with Boris Yeltsin's decree, signed on 13 June, Russia thus has its own border forces, which, nearly a year after the putsch, are again being placed directly under the special services. According to observers, it is the first significant step in a planned campaign to restore to the Russian Security Ministry all the functions the USSR KGB lost after the triumph of democracy.

Judging by the available data, the preparation of the decree took around one week. That is, approximately as long as it took to make the border forces, external intelligence, "Alfa" special subunits, and government communications and security administrations independent of the KGB, which the new authorities considered a monster that was dangerous to society.

Now the reverse process of concentrating power in the hands of the Russian Security Ministry has begun. No doubt it will take time, but, as informed sources unofficially led IZVESTIYA to believe, there can be no doubt that Viktor Barannikov intends to restore to the chekists not only the borders, but all the prodigal sons whom the previous KGB chief, Vadim Bakatin, succeeded in driving out of their home.

The president's decree on Russian border forces was obviously prepared at the Russian Security Ministry. At any rate, the top generals in the border forces, which were independent until 13 June, received the official text of the document literally a few hours before Yeltsin and Barannikov congratulated former chief of staff of the border forces Lieutenant General Shlyakhtin on his new appointment.

The document says: The border guards do not purely automatically pass to the chekists. The Russian Security Ministry is as it were setting up a new administration in its system which will immediately take charge of all border units, equipment, weapons, and training establishments on the territory of Russia and formations under its jurisdiction.

They are chiefly the forces of the Northwest, Transbaykal, Far East, Pacific, Northeast, Baltic, and Transcaucasus border districts and the Arctic border detachment. The idea is that all these will henceforth be called Russian border forces, although by the end of 15 June there was no clear idea what exactly the Russian border guards were and what borders they would be protecting.

Three hours after accepting the congratulations, Vladimir Shlyakhtin, commander of the new Russian Security Ministry admninistration, said in an interview for IZVESTIYA that he was in his office tackling with colleages the question of where the borders are that it is his job to protect. People should not expect any radical changes in the immediate future, he said, But the need to organize and equip Russia's internal borders with the former Union republics is being discussed in earnest. First and foremost with the Baltic republics and, most likely, with Azerbaijan. Asked whether Russia intends to erect borders and create strips of dead ground between itself and Ukraine, Vladimir Shlyakhtin answered in the negative.

Of himself the new commander in chief said that he is "a Russian, born in Rostov Oblast." The lieutenant general asked for any other questions to be presented in written form via his assistant: This is the procedure for communicating with the press that has been established at the Russian Security Ministry.

Poltoranin Warns of Media, Information Changes

LD1906102392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent V. Skvortsov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Mikhail Poltoranin, Russian vice premier in charge of the media, attended a meeting between the leadership of the Russian Television and Radio Company and their own local correspondents. The difficulties of work in news bureaus are not confined to the chronic shortage of motor transport and professional equipment. In many regions, our colleagues come against open resistance not only to their professional activity but also to the implementation of reforms, from local soviets and television and radio committees. The minister promised help but, in turn, rebuked the leadership of two Russian television and radio companies for strategic errors in the selection and nature of the political information they present. We need to reorganize all information structures, and this issue is being discussed with the president, Poltoranin said. He accused the leaders of the Ostankino company of an anti-presidential bias of many programs. A meeting with the national patriots who are picketing the television center shows that they count on someone's support within the television company.

Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the Russian Television company, said that Russian television has never held a hostile position; it has supported and will support reforms and the government.

Ostankino Picketers To Fight to 'Bitter End'

OW1806175192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The picketing of the "Ostankino" state company for television and radio broadcasting has continued. "We will fight to the bitter end", one of the organizers of the picketing, member of the Moscow City Council, secretary of the Central Committee of the Russian Workers' Party, Viktor Anpilov told a news conference held by the opposition block of parliamentary parties "Russian Unity" in the House of the Soviets.

He said that the picketers were determined to do so and that miners from Kemerovo, and supporters from Bashkortostan and a number of other areas were due to arrive shortly.

One of the leaders of the "Russian Unity" opposition bloc, people's deputy of the Russian Federation Ilya Konstantinov addressed the news conference with a proposal for setting up special observer councils of the public at television and radio companies and at the Ministry of the Press in order to give equal opportunities to political parties on television.

Party Membership Rises With Ostankino Seige

OW1806161292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of the Russian Communist Workers Party [CWP] Victor Anpilov has charged the Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov and the "Ostankino" TV and Radio Company with illegal actions against the pickets at the TV centre and with provoking clashes. "It was a very hard job for us to keep demonstrators from conflicts with special police troops"—he declared on Thursday [18 June].

Mr. Anpilov pointed out in this connection that "senior police officers supported us and they were grateful for the prevention of bloodshed".

The tent town, pitched by the pickets at Ostankino, was pulled down Tuesday night at the Mayor's instruction. The pickets have been demanding time on TV to express their views.

As the Communist Party leader indicated, the Opposition Forces Council intended to sue the Moscow police for the stolen tents.

He disclosed that the four days of the TV center's siege has seen the enrolment of some 200 new party members. He also predicted that party membership would be growing.

Mr. Anpilov confirmed the plans of "Russia's Labour" Movement—a sponsor of the TV centre's picketing—to hold there a mass "antifascist" rally on June 22nd. To take part in it, Mr. Anpilov revealed, 100 people had already arrived from Bashkortostan and a delegation from Kemerovo miners was also expected to come.

Victor Anpilov declared in an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] that if the authorites tried to resort to force against us another time, we'd put part of our people on stand by at the US Embassy and would block it.

In the conditions of an information blockade, he noted furthermore, members of "Russia's Labour" would start distributing a bulletin with the outline of the Movement's position as of 14 hours on June 18th.

Meanwhile, police confiscated loud speakers from pickets on Thursday. One explanation for this is that the use of loud speakers runs counter to the picketting terms, permitted by the Mayor's Department. The Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, as has been reported for "IF", has threatened that if these conditions were breached at least once again, picketting will be prohibitted

TV Center Protest Seen as Political Diversion

PM1806161192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 1

[V. Prokhvatilov and D. Sabov "Viewpoint": "If the Television Center Is Being Stormed, This Means That Someone Finds It Necessary"]

[Text] Judging by the events of the extended—thank you, independence!—weekend the next in a series of political crises in Moscow has moved from the lobbies to the streets. Clearly the resignation of Moscow's mayor reflected the crisis in the democratic team—in the same way as Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation was once a starting point for the crisis in the Gorbachev team. The similarity of their motives is also striking: Both politicians departed warning of the threat of a right-wing coup.

Popov left in a professorial manner, without any scandal or clamorous interviews. But the press immediately took up the hottest lead, linking the resignation with the story of the moment concerning wholesale criminal privatization by the nomenklatura which had developed in the capital. Judging from the speed with which the avalanche of commentaries on this subject grew, we could have expected any kind of reaction in the near future from the highest Russian leadership. We only have to recall that Yu. Shchekochikhin's piece in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA was addressed personally to B. Yeltsin, as a former comrade from the interregional deputies' group.

Then suddenly the "patriotic storming" of Ostankino allowed the agenda to be changed radically. The united opposition forces carried out a successful operation to "seize" Central Television. But unlike February's bloody battle, when the special-purpose militia detachment troops "crushed" the war and labor veterans, this time the law enforcement agencies showed unexpected confusion....

Is there any link between these events? It is enough to pose the Roman lawyers' classical question: Cui bono? As often happens in politics, it certainly does not benefit those who are behind the demonstrators at Ostankino. But rather it benefits those who are not against deflecting public opinion from the secrets of underground privatization and—no less important—intimidating the mass media.

As far as the opposition is concerned, its purpose is different—to disrupt the alliance which has taken shape between realistically-minded democrats and business executives who are oriented toward the market. What could serve this better than whipping up political instability?

We should not forget that the crisis in Moscow blew up against the background of the crisis developing all over Russia. In a number of industrial regions strikes are expected as well as all kinds of protest actions in connection with the cash shortage. There is a particularly tense situation in Russia's south: Field Hetman [pokhodnyy ataman] of the Don Army Yu. Meshcheryakov, speaking at the Volga and Don Cossack Council, called on 13 June for a Don Army regime to be established in southern regions. As creditable sources close to governing circles reported to us, armed sorties by Cossacks are not ruled out.

All this is particularly alarming in connection with the Russian president's visit to America. Because, as history teaches us, our opposition as a rule waits for the moment when the "master" leaves home. All the more so since the government, as ever, is not keeping up with events, and is more and more often lagging behind them.

Yeltsin's most recent steps—signing the radical economic decrees and, certainly, appointing Ye. Gaydar to the post of premier—testify that he has seen this danger and has managed to maintain his reputation as a "demolisher" of political crises. By concluding an alliance with the captains of industry he is striving to regain time lost in the long battles with parliament and to take a perceptible leap forward in economic legislation.

To make sure that this progress does not stop (after all, the opposition forces are very great) it is necessary, as Mikhail Sergeyevich [Gorbachev] would have said, to palpably deepen the planned alliance. Otherwise, Yeltsin's trip to America at a moment of crisis could prove the beginning of the present regime's "Gorbachevization"—searching for political support not in his own country but abroad. There is one real alternative today—the Yeltsin-Gaydar government economic policy should be based on a balance of the interests of all social groups. In other words, on a broad alliance of all healthy political forces having an interest in the movement to a social market economy, with which the present Russian version of mafia-like privatization has, alas, very little in common.

The bitter experience of Russian democracy has shown that the link between the bureaucrats and the "new bourgeoisie's" financial capital is volatile, because it serves the interests of too narrow a circle of people. In any event it is fraught with the possibility of a severe attack of social envy on the part of those who have a right to claim their share of the socialist inheritance. How are the labor collectives supposed to react when they see that, when it comes to privatizing state enterprises, the democrats in power, who advocate social justice, at the same time do not permit directors and workers to become owners of their own production? They divide up the city's real estate without their participation among a narrow circle. This is essentially what lies at the heart of the present political crisis.

Where is there a way out? The Russian leadership should immediately conclude an alliance first and foremost with the labor collectives (maybe even after making concessions in the area of privatization and, most important, in the area of the pace of structural perestroyka) and with the corps of directors, without neglecting those whom we have gotten used to disparagingly calling "the defense lobby." Their representatives were not to be found in the columns which besieged the television center, although they are the ones on whom the reform's burdens have weighed down most heavily: They are the ones who are not being paid their wages, who are not getting the resources, whose plants are going to be closed down, if not today then tomorrow, in order to please their American elder brother.

If they have not come out on to the streets today, this means that many of them have in principle already realized that the market is inevitable. The only thing with which they are categorically not in agreement is the thing which could destroy them. Petr Korotkevich, a representative of the Russian military-industrial complex, considers that the uncontrolled shifts in the structural layers could destroy Russia's industrial potential—including those enterprises which are completely competitive on the world market.

We should incidentally point out: This is the only force feared by the political and criminal mafia which is straining for power. If the democrats succeed in making the military-industrial complex, the lifelong opponent of market reforms, into their ally, lo and behold they will not only succeed in beating back the next in a series of assaults on television centers, but also give a second wind to the reform which was on the point of being suspended.

Or else...Or else that very moment is not far off which the cheerful ideologist of the period of primary accumulation Long John Silver defined in his clear, boatswain's manner: Soon the living will envy the dead.

'Democratic Russia' Criticizes Move on Crimea

MK1806141692 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 3

[K.K. Report: "What We Need Are Reforms, Not War"]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet resolution which deems inoperative the 1954 act on the transfer of Crimea to Ukraine is a step toward the further worsening of relations with Ukraine, a statement issued by the "Democratic Russia" Coordinating Council says. This resolution plays into the hands of nationalist forces who advocate that the republic should leave the CIS and could in the future seriously complicate the position of Russians living in Ukraine and lead to the complete breakdown of economic ties and military clashes between the republics.

The "Democratic Russia" Coordinating Council notes that some of the Ukrainian leadership's moves have helped to complicate the situation in Crimea. The Russian and Ukrainian peoples need radical transformations, not bloody conflicts—that is the gist of this statement.

It is not quite clear why "Democratic Russia" opposes the repeal of an act which was adopted in breach of the RSFSR Constitution, but presumably the movement is worried that on the basis of this Supreme Soviet resolution some parliamentary leaders might make injudicious statements which will really aggravate relations between Russia and Ukraine. The exchange of "pleasantries" between Khasbulatov and Shevardnadze on the South Ossetia situation is confirmation of that.

Communist Threatens To 'Blockade' Embassy

PM1906093392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Nikolay Andreyev: "Forward, Communists! Participants in the CPSU Central Committee Plenum Urge"]

[Text] As is well known, a so-called CPSU Central Committee Plenum has been held, at which M. Gorbachev was finally expelled from CPSU ranks for treachery.

A news conference held 18 June in the House of Journalists was devoted to the results of the plenum. It was announced that 62 of the 400 members of the Central Committee took part in the plenum's work. In response to a question about the lawfulness of a plenum bringing together such a small proportion of the Central Committee, the leader of the organizing group, mechanical expert K. Nikolayev, replied that the rules contain no instructions on this score.

Plenum participant A. Prigarin stated that the main aim of Communists today is to restore a socialist system within the USSR. True, K. Nikolayev holds a different opinion, believing that people have begun to work badly nowadays because of the disorganized state of production. And we know that Communists were always in the vanguard of shock labor and competition; therefore right now the task is to work better; so there is nothing more important for Communists right now than to set an example at work to other workers. But then the result would be that by their prodigous labor, Communists would reinforce the authorities which they resolutely oppose. The present Russian authorities are deemed criminal and semilegal.

V. Sekretaryuk, first secretary of the Lvov Oblast Party Committee, spoke of the intolerable conditions in which Communists are forced to operate in Western Ukraine. He expressed decisive disagreement with the way the press covers the party's history. The repressions, in his opinion, were caused by criminal elements infiltrating the party and perverting honest Communists.

It turns out that the Communists, though aspiring to power, nevertheless possess no economic program; however it was firmly promised that the best minds are working on such a program.

V. Anpilov, secretary of the Russian Communist Workers' Party Central Committee and organizer and inspiration of the action outside the TV center, made a statement. He announced a large influx of new members into the party. On 17 June, the secretary handed a party card to Vinogradov, a Yakut who had participated in fighting in the Dniester region, where as a sniper he had actually shot down people on the Right Bank. V. Anpilov gave a serious warning that if press attacks on participants in the Ostankino protests do not cease, masses of people will be brought out to blockade the U.S. Embassy; the secretary promised to stand outside the embassy until the bitter end. What relation this has to the historic plenum was not explained. It was also left unclear what the masses are to do: hold rallies until total victory, as Anpilov urges, or just turn up at their place of work. One choice only must be made.

'Working Moscow' Pickets Gorbachev Foundation

OW1906113892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1036 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On June 19, at 9:00 the Working Moscow movement and representatives of workers' soviets began picketing the building of the Gorbachev Foundation in Moscow. They have locked the central entrance and hoisted the flag of the USSR above the building. By 10:00, the number of demonstrators did not exceed 35.

Mikhail Popov, a consultant of the Executive Committee of the Workers' Soviets, told IF [INTERFAX] that this is going to be a one-day action, whose goal is to make the authorities pass the building to the opposition parties and movements. Mikhail Popov also believes that picketing will prompt some of the MPs [members of parliament] to inquire about the legality of placing the building which once housed the Institute of Social Sciences of the Communist Party's Central Committee and which was financed by ordinary communists, at the disposal of the Gorbachev Foundation.

Republic Party's Shostakovskiy Interviewed

MK1906114692 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Jun 92 p 2

[Interview with Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, cochairman of Republic Party of Russia, by Natalya Gorodetskaya under the "Such a Party Exists" rubric; place and date not given: "Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, Cochairman of Republic Party of Russia, Advises Russian Leadership Not To Pay Attention to Congress, Write Decrees Instead of Laws"]

[Text] [Gorodetskaya] The Republic Party of Russia [RPR] is due to meet for a congress 27-28 June. Is this a routine congress?

[Shostakovskiy] It is. A congress always provides an opportunity to collate your positions and course, exchange experience, and analyze information, in particular, from the regions. But a few problems will take center stage: The situation within "Democratic Russia," the party's position on this, and our attitude to the referendum. We will also submit program documents to the congress—it is time not merely to amend them, but to review a number of points. I do not think that these will be the last changes. Because of the dynamic nature of the situation, if, contrary to expectations, there are elections next year, we will have to convene another congress and produce an election program.

[Gorodetskaya] Do you already have such a program? Are there candidates that the RPR will back in the election?

[Shostakovskiy] I do not know whether the congress will support my position on this, but I think that the key area of the party's activity should be to gear itself to work in the municipalities. We are either hearing total rejection of the soviets now or apologia for them. We need to have a somewhat more thorough grasp of what a municipality is in the broader sense—as a local unit of self-government, governing the regions with consideration for their specific features—and prepare for elections to various posts in the municipalities. I think that we have enough potential here to propose our own lists of candidates. We have some chance of success in many regions.

[Gorodetskaya] Which ones?

[Shostakovskiy] Members of the party head the city administration in Belgorod and Volgograd and are the president's representatives—Sulakshin in Tomsk and Minzhurenko in Omsk. There are people who are not members of our party, but who cooperate with it—we supported them when they were nominated—people like the representative of the Rostov-na-Donu administration...

[Gorodetskaya] "Democratic Russia" has decided to put three questions to a referendum: the question of land, the question of convening a Constituent Assembly to adopt a constitution, and the question of the president's right to hold a referendum. Does your party support this idea?

[Shostakovskiy] There are differing views of the referendum within the party, particularly within the regional organizations. The position espoused by the workers' collegium is as follows: This is another opportunity to rock the boat and may worsen the situation in the country and split society. I too am in favor of retaining the unsteady balance—but a balance nonetheless—of political forces while reforms are under way, until there are obvious successes. At the same time members of our party in many regions are in the mood for a referendum, including a Constituent Assembly. We will seek a common stance at the congress. No one knows what a Constituent Assembly is, how elections to it will be held, whether there will be a law on a Constituent Assembly and on its powers, and who should convene it....

[Gorodetskaya] Are you afraid there will be more blather?

[Shostakovskiy] I am afraid that there will be not blather, but blood. Moreover, if the idea of a Constituent Assembly gets through a referendum, the soviets will obviously disband. I do not support them, but this does mean that the executive, which is by and large uncontrolled, will end up left to its own devices and may do as it pleases. It may toy with the Constituent Assembly, put off convening it ad infinitum, or may disband it—something that we have already experienced. Nor am I sure that the elections to the Constituent Assembly will produce the body of delegates that Gavriil Kharitonovich Popov expects or that they will be able to adopt the Constitution that he has drafted.

[Gorodetskaya] Are you afraid that a second congress of people's deputies will be set up?

[Shostakovskiy] Yes. I think that all of us—professional politicians, political scientists, and sociologists—simply know that the real state of affairs is very bad, as is people's mood in the boondocks, and we are aware of the reasons for their behavior.

[Gorodetskaya] How do you view the idea of "disbanding the congress."

[Shostakovskiy] We must stop paying it attention since it is so powerless, incompetent, and incapable of assuming responsibility. In the executive's place I would not pay attention to it; I would act resolutely and create a lawmaking base with presidential decrees. During the transitional period it is necessary to take responsibility. As for the congress...well, once it has been disbanded, what then? Normal elections must be prepared. I am sure that the Supreme Soviet—and I think that it is more professional—can adopt a decision on early elections.

[Gorodetskaya] You used to favor a parliamentary republic. Your views seem to have changed somewhat....

[Shostakovskiy] There is virtually no purely parliamentary or presidential republic. That's for starters. Second, which of them—the congress or the Supreme Soviet—is the parliament? They were not formed on the basis of parliamentary principles, there were no elections from party lists. There are no rigid parliamentary factions.

[Gorodetskaya] There is no law on parties....

[Shostakovskiy] There is no law and parties are still very weak. The situation in parliament is that members of any one party can be members of different factions. The last congress demonstrated a regrouping of political forces—the "state men" broke away from "Democratic Russia" and moved closer to the orthodox Bolsheviks. Thus, our parliament is not a parliament and I would not use it as the basis for a parliamentary republic. I am in favor of a strong legislature, executive, and judiciary and an independent press, which so far is not independent, quite naturally—everyone wants to have a piece of the action. A strong legislature above all means professionalism. And this can only be secured if we have elections with party lists of candidates. A party must bear responsibility for its candidates

[Gorodetskaya] The RPR is a collective member of "Democratic Russia" and the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms [RMDR]. The Moscow organization has announced that it is leaving the RMDR out of a lack of confidence in Popov. What do you think the congress will decide about its membership of these movements?

[Shostakovskiy] I hope that, despite the grave situation with "Democratic Russia," the congress will decide not to leave this movement. As for the RMDR, we are in a difficult position. In a number of regions RMDR centers, if they exist, are made up of representatives of two parties—the RPR and the People's Party-Free Russia—and it would be awkward to abandon things there, if, of course, anything was happening. That is why we are giving regional organizations the right to act in keeping with the specific situation. As for the party as a collective member, we will probably leave the RMDR, because we cannot act as a political cover for the adventurist actions taken by the movement's leader. I cannot use any other words to describe Popov's statement in favor of a Constituent Assembly or his desire to rock the situation and disrupt equilibrium.

[Gorodetskaya] At one time the workers' collegium of the RPR decided not to support the initiative from your cochairman Vladimir Lysenko to create the reform coalition. Has its opinion changed?

[Shostakovskiy] The decision was a fairly judicious one. On the one hand, it would be quite good to have a constructive group of deputies in parliament. We need laws that would create a basis for market relations. We support Lysenko on that. The problem lies elsewhere—how much mass support can these efforts win. People are so weary and disillusioned that they can hardly be prompted to take mass action. A negative attitude to all political institutions and political leaders now prevails in people's minds. I am surprised at Gavriil Kharitonovich's naive hope of creating a mighty movement for democratic transformations, as he has said. There will be no progress.

[Gorodetskaya] Perhaps, Popov is starting his election campaign? For president?

[Shostakovskiy] I do not know about his running for president, but he does aspire to be prime minister.

Rescue Continues for Mine Explosion Victims

*PM1706150392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Jun 92*

[Video report by G. Kondaurov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Video shows announcer followed by shot of pit exterior] [Announcer] The situation at the Sukhodolskaya-Vostochnaya Pit, where an accident occurred the other day, is still worrying. Cave-ins are continuing, and rescue work is being conducted by specialists from Ukraine and Russia.

[Kondaurov] I cannot agree with those who claim that what happened at the Sukhodolskaya-Vostochnaya Pit is being hushed up like Chernobyl. The fact is that even now—five days after the accident—the government commission does not have any accurate information on what caused it. A firedamp explosion 915 meters down put the eastern section of the pit out of action. The underground ventilation system has been destroyed. Long stretches of the mine workings are full of carbon monoxide. There is hardly any oxygen in these areas and temperatures are high. Only mine rescue workers wearing breathing apparatus and individual air tanks are allowed to work down there. Rock falls and cave-ins are continuing. Highly experienced mine rescue units from Lugansk, Donetsk, and Rostov Oblasts are on the scene. They are looking for the three miners and four mine rescue workers still to be brought up. They were caught in a rock fall. The main task now is to quickly arrange an air supply underground, thereby allowing other miners to join in the rescue effort. Last night experts and members of the government commission reached the explosion area. But the source of the explosion has not yet been identified. The death toll has reached 58. There are 30 injured miners—many of them in a serious condition—in hospitals in Lugansk and other cities. The rescue work at Sukhodolskaya-Vostochnaya is not stopping for a single minute. [video shows mine exterior, rescue workers]

Citizenship Procedures for Russians Eased

LD1506154192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Issue of Russian Passports Simplified"]

[Text] People living outside the Russian Federation—on the territory of former Union republics—often apply to our editorial offices, asking about the possibility of obtaining Russian citizenship.

Thus, for example, envoys from the Latvian Association of Russian Citizens informed us that they had sent a protest to the Russian Supreme Soviet and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs over what they consider to be the "extremely complicated and essentially humiliating" procedure of granting Russian citizenship to Russians from the Baltic republics.

We contacted representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs consular service and legal department. They believe that, unfortunately, the majority of citizens of the former USSR do not know of the existence of the Russian Law on Citizenship which came into force 6 February 1992. Article 18 of this document says that persons in permanent residence on the territory of republics which belonged directly to the former USSR according to the state of affairs as of 1 September 1991 can become citizens of the Russian Federation.

As is well known, around 1 million Russians currently live in Latvia. In order to assist all applicants to obtain Russian citizenship, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' consular services in Moscow are planning to ease the document registration procedures as much as possible. In other words, a person residing on the territory of any of the former Soviet republics and having a USSR passport writes an application and fills out a questionnaire. After this has been done the Foreign Ministry consular officials are granted the right to issue a Russian passport (incidentally, this is still only in the design stage) or to stamp the "old" passport with a Russian Federation citizenship stamp.

However, it turns out that there are serious difficulties in the actual procedure—Russian embassies and consulates have not yet been opened in the majority of former USSR republics. Foreign Ministry officials are also asserting the need for this to be done as soon as possible. But for the time being our compatriots in nearby foreign parts have to apply directly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs consular service, located on Smolensk Square in Moscow.

Foreign Ministry Urged To Use 'Political Might'

PM1806090192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jun 92 First Edition p 7

[Report by Andronik Migranyan: "No Two Concessions Are Alike"]

[Text] Foreign policy topics have come to the fore again just recently in connection with two very important events: the meetings between Russian President Yeltsin and U.S. President Bush, and the sanctions against Serbia.

Russia's attempt to avoid sanctioning resolute measures against Serbia within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe suggested that the Russian foreign policy department is groping for its own specific interests. Obviously this was prompted in no small measure by the constant criticism in parliament and at the Congress of People's Deputies, where the Foreign Ministry and the Foreign Policy Department leadership were blamed for Russia's becoming a minor partner of the United States and failing to keep guard over its own national interests in respect of its allies, in effect turning into a third-rate country.

However, Russia's support for the UN resolution against Serbia shows that in fact our Foreign Policy Department has no clearly defined image of what our policy should be in cases when the leading Western powers occupy a common position. The telegram from Yuliy Vorontsov, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations, is an indicative sample of our Foreign Ministry leadership's understanding of Russia's strategic policy in respect of the West and of its possible allies. The newspaper DEN, after publishing the secret document, accuses the Foreign Policy Department, and in particular Kozyrev and Vorontsov, of betraying Serbia. In my view it is not a question of betrayal but of error, which, according to Talleyrand, is worse than crime. I think that Vorontsov's reasoning—that it is not worth aggravating relations with the West on the eve of Yeltsin's visit and that it is better to speak in unison with them—does not stand up to serious criticism. Voting "against" or taking up the neutral position of abstaining on the sanctions decision would in fact have left Russia with far greater room for maneuver in relations with Serbia and the West alike.

As events in the Persian Gulf demonstrated, our position in respect of Libya and now in respect of Serbia, apart from the purely symbolic complacency and the attempt by certain circles connected with foreign policy to overcome their inferiority complex by claiming that we are walking hand in hand with the civilized West, will bring nothing concrete to Russia.

Russia's costs—economic and geopolitical, in respect of both Libya and the Serbian question—are not compensated at all. What is more, Russia's failure in fact to distance itself from the West's foreign policy brings it no trump cards in developing relationships with the United States and the West. It is clear to foreign policy professionals that international relations are based on very strict "trade-offs," where there should be very serious arguments and opportunities for mutual compromises. The more Russia occupies a position of unconditionally following the interests of the strongest in this world, the fewer chances it has to defend its own interests and its hopes that the United States and the West will make concessions in respect of Russia on economic, military-political, and other questions.

In actual fact, Yuriy Vorontsov's reasoning signifies that in all key regions where the United States has interests and Russia still holds some influence, this influence is being lost. Having become the weaker partner, Russia will no longer be able to use its former resources as "bargaining" chips.

It seems to me that to conduct such a foreign policy in our current state of limbo is very dangerous. All the time, the American Congress and Administration are making it clear that their country's position on economic aid will depend on Russia's behavior. This is the most blatant blackmail! Such a massive state as Russia cannot depend so heavily on whether they will or will not hand over the money. Making constant efforts to behave properly while waiting for the necessary aid—this is a conscious weakening of our positions. In practice, what I see here is an effort to drive Russia's foreign policy into a corner.

It is necessary to distinguish between two very important things: economic aid, cooperation and credits, and the vitally important interests of state. During a U.S. visit last year I observed discussions among American politicians on the expediency of extending most favored nation status to China in the light of the civil rights violations in that country. In spite of what was at stake regarding the American markets and long-term capital investments and the pressure from public opinion and American legislators, the Chinese side made no serious concessions whatever—yet, nevertheless, the Administration secured most favored nation status in respect of China. The argument here was the assumption that a break in ties could render relationships within China even more complex and uncontrolled, and China could become a destructive factor in international politics. And yet Russia has even greater potential than China for challenging Western interests....

Obviously it ought to be made clear to Western politicians that the departure from the era of total confrontation by no means signifies a complete coincidence of foreign policy interests.

In my view, the Foreign Ministry is not fully aware of the extent to which our domestic opposition can make effective use of a loss of bearings in the international arena. The opposition accuses the Foreign Ministry of continuing "defeatist" trends which, in their view, were characteristic of Shevardnadze's perestroyka period. Therefore action against Serbia or in any other region could become a detonator and strengthen the opposition's position. Especially as, in reality, the constant concessions are not actually producing the concrete and momentous economic infusions and financial aid which were expected.

Russia must hold trump cards capable of really interesting the United States and the Western community in participating more vigorously in our unprosperous economy. Otherwise, in this U.S. presidential election year, when America is experiencing crisis in its cities and racial disorders and when American society is demanding financial appropriations primarily within the country, neither Congress nor the president will be in any hurry to "pick up the tab" for our reforms.

Following the "G-7" meeting in Munich aid from other countries is also highly problematic. In this situation too, Russia should wield its political might and advantageous geopolitical situation to demonstrate that, unless the West takes serious heed of the "Russia factor," today's smooth development of relations with the West could be badly shaken in the very near future. By supporting Serbia, if it had planned a few moves in advance, the foreign policy department would have been able to placate the opposition, by showing them that Russia was returning to a policy of backing its traditional allies, and to strengthen our position in the Balkans, while far greater efforts would have been required of the West to secure any compromises from Russia in this region.

Back at the beginning of the 1980's the West's most farsighted strategists believed that, even after the Communists had gone from power in the USSR, national interests would collide, and in these collisions the most varied changes in relationships would be possible.

This by no means signifies that Russia must return to the total confrontation of days gone by. It should return to the normal, ideology-free foreign policy which is the guiding light for all civilized countries, whose ranks we are clumsily striving to join.

Bessmertnykh on National, Foreign Interests

LD1806104192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1316 GMT on 14 June, in the "International Panorama" program, carries an 18-minute feature with Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Bessmertnykh, former USSR foreign minister and president of the Foreign Policy Association, who is the guest of program presenter Aleksandr Vasilyev.

Following a video report on the Indian-Glavkosmos space project, Bessmertnykh asserts that the pressure put by the United States on Russian interests over the deal is "inadmissible," and backs the Russian leadership's firm defense of Russian national interests. The main thing for us, he says, "are our own national interests, which should, I think, be more carefully and effectively developed to create a basis upon which our country's foreign policy may develop."

Vasilyev says that Russian diplomacy showed up well in the Indian space project affair, demonstrating the emergence of an independent foreign policy, but the events regarding Yugoslavia suggest otherwise. Over video of Yugoslav landscapes and destruction, a CSCE session, Kozyrev's arrival in Yugoslavia, and Yeltsin meeting Jacques Delors, Vasilyev says that in the beginning, Russia did take an independent stand regarding Yugoslavia, refusing to vote for Yugoslav exclusion from the CSCE and sending Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev on a mediating mission. "However, in literally two days, everything changed. On 30 May Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a meeting with EC Commission Chairman Jacques Delors. The Russian leader asked Delors to speed up granting aid from the West and to put a moratorium on payment of interest on the Soviet Union's debts. Immediately after the talks Boris Nikolayevich announced that Moscow was changing its position on the Yugoslav crisis and that it was ready to support sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro."

The United States then further toughened its stand against Serbia. "It too often happens," Vasilyev adds, "that as soon as the United Nations introduces sanctions against a state, it is not only the state in question that suffers most, but Russia along with it. In the case of Serbia and Montenegro, a great deal of damage has been done to our economic interests. Moscow's political reputation has been seriously undermined. Why, one may ask, did Andrey Kozyrev hurtle around the Balkans, displaying outstanding energy and personal courage, and then, literally two days later, renounce the capital he had earned, just to please the Americans? After all, in the Security Council vote Russia could at least have abstained, just as Zimbabwe and China did."

Commenting in the studio, Bessmertnykh points out that Russia has found itself in a predicament as far as the Balkan situation is concerned. Russia has long-standing traditions of diplomacy in Serbia, Bulgaria, and Greece. He says: "On the one hand there was this tendency toward the traditional line in our policy, while on the other hand there was a desire to rank alongside the modern states lined up in the Security Council voicing the idea of introducing sanctions against that country. In my view, in this complicated situation the maximum diplomatic skill should have been used to ensure that Russia did not leave the ranks of states opposing the bloodshed, and to keep Russia among those states actively advocating peacemaking steps in this direction. However, this historical link between Russia and the Balkans, especially the states I have mentioned, should have made us act with more caution and circumspection, in my view. If the situation had happened when I was able to take any action on it, I would have advocated a more balanced option. Russia should not have given its categorical support for the sanctions—nor did anyone expect it to—and for the proposed text of the resolution, though it is not bad, actually. In my view, Russia should have abstained, for the sake of its own national interests. As far as I know, this is what many states had been expecting of Russian diplomacy, but a different decision was made, one evidently dictated by some other considerations."

Vasilyev goes on to ask Bessmertnykh's view of Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev's position following Yeltsin's change of policy over the issue. Such situations, Bessmertnykh says, "can, in theory, occur, and they do crop up every now and then, when a foreign minister may hold one opinion and the president another. In such cases the president's position of course prevails. I am not quite convinced, though, that the events regarding the Yugoslav crisis developed in exactly the way you portrayed them. I do not think there was such a serious and clear-cut difference in the positions of the minister and president," Bessmertnykh goes on. "I have no reliable information about the discussions which went on in the government or the National Security Council of Russia. It seems to me that in the case at issue, the situation in Yugoslavia, it was not so much errors—though these evidently did play a role—as emotions, taking offense at the fact that after the foreign minister's visit the truce he was insisting upon was not maintained, and also, of course, the desire to avoid taking up a position of opposition to leading world powers that had taken a tough stance vis-a-vis Serbia."

Vasilyev moves on to Russian diplomacy in the Near East. Over video of Jerusalem, Vice President Rutskoy in Israel, Arabs, and pyramids, he says: "Following the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel, Russia rushed into the embrace of its new friend," with political, business, and academic delegations travelling to Israel. Despite the longstanding cultural ties between Russian and Israel, however, "the latest shift, the lack of balance in Russian diplomacy, is damaging our interests in the Near East. Even Andrey Kozyrev's recent visit around Arab countries cannot not erase the impression that, at present, Moscow is adopting pro-Israeli positions. Yet the Arabs, too, have money, experience, and influence in the world. The authors of Russian foreign policy should bear in mind that such a lack of balance is giving rise to incomprehension and irritation among Arab leaders, diplomats, and mass media."

Bessmertnykh was the first Soviet diplomat to visit Israel after the long break in relations. His visit was to prepare the groundwork for the Near East negotiations. "At that time," Bessmertnykh says, "our policy suffered from a certain onesidedness, inclining in the opposite direction;" in other words, he says, backing the Arab countries. Following accords reached with the United States on the principles of a Near East settlement, however, the need has arisen to balance Russian policy. Bessmertnykh does not think the shift has gone too far in the opposite direction: "If Russia's foreign policy were once again to lose its balanced nature, then it would be hard to expect any success in bringing about a Near East settlement; second, it would be very hard to expect Russia to play its legitimate role in that region."

Moving on to Yeltsin's forthcoming U.S. visit, Vasilyev outlines Yeltsin's agenda over footage of the White House and the famous lawn, the Capitol and Congress, Arlington Cemetery, and U.S. skylines. Commenting on Vasilyev's roundup, Bessmertnykh comments: "I think any leader runs a very real danger of yielding to the temptation of the ritual honors and protocol, and it must be admitted that they cannot be avoided. The negotiations are so serious, and the future of our relations with the United States is so crucial, that it must all be taken calmly. Furthermore, Boris Nikolayevich, as I understand it, has already become quite accustomed to situations such as these. In Russian-U.S. relations it is important that everything be put on a firm, pragmatic basis: that is, the interests of Russia must be presented to the United States clearly and precisely. The West, especially the United States, respects a strong partner. They do not like moaning and whining partners. They are ready to conduct serious affairs with firm, principled, clear-thinking partners who honestly defend their own interests. Russia, I think, will present itself before them in just that way," Bessmertnykh concludes.

Krasnoyarsk Radar Station To Undergo Conversion

LD1706204692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 17 ITAR-TASS—The Government of the Russian Federation has ordered to turn to peaceful economic uses the structures that remained after the dismantling of the former Krasnoyarsk radio location station. The government proceeded from the statement of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces that its commandment had suspended the dismantling of the transmitter and receiver blocks of the former Krasnoyarsk radar station and was considering their transfer to the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry.

The Fuel and Energy Ministry has been instructed to prepare, jointly with the administration of the Krasnoyarsk territory, all the necessary documents to reequip the remaining buildings to house a furniture factory and other production facilities for turning out consumer goods. These documents will thereafter be passed over to the American side.

The Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry, on agreement with the Foreign Ministry, the Russian Security Ministry and the Supreme Commandment of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces, will organize, in conformity with an accord with the U.S. side, a visit of U.S. representatives to the former radar station. All the expenses will be covered by the American side. Any further requests for similar trips by Americans will be organised on similar terms.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has been instructed to inform the U.S. side about the suspension of the dismantling of the former radio location station and about the readiness of the Russian side to organize visits, as well as to pass over to Americans documents concerning the refurbishing of the Krasnoyarsk radar station.

Supreme Soviet

Political Forces View Yeltsin Visit to U.S.

LD1806205892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Russian Unity bloc held a news conference in Moscow today in Russia's White House. I will point out that this opposition bloc holds such news conferences every week, but the present meeting with the media was particularly full of sharp statements.

People's Deputy Nikolay Pavlov, for example, stated that as a result of the present visit to the United States, Boris Yeltsin has ended his presidency. That is how Pavlov put it. People's Deputy Sergey Baburin, former member of the Russian Communist Party's Central Committee, was less categorical. Inter alia he said:

[Begin Baburin recording] When I was speaking about my impressions, I had in mind the impressions I gained from those television broadcasts showing the ingratiating approach, which is how you could characterize the Russian president's behavior in front of American parliamentarians. Unfortunately, the first report on the nature of the agreements signed, in particular those concerning the reductions in our weapons, not only put in question whether the Russian state's interests are provided for, whether the Russian Federation's security is provided for, but actually raises the question of whose interests Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin was representing in Washington. And isn't his trip to Washington, the acceptance of the actually perfidious conditions proposed by the American side, an obligation for our partners in the talks to support any internal political measures which Yeltsin intends to use on his return to Russia? [end recording]

Baburin, Pavlov Comment

LD1806175892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1616 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Galina Vinitskaya and Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 18 TASS—The Russian parliament, as expected, split on the results of President Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States. Different political forces represented in the Parliament voiced differing opinions in no uncertain terms tinged with strong emotions.

Sergey Baburin and Nikolay Pavlov, the leaders of the "Rossiyskoye Yedinstvo" (Russian Unity) bloc which is backed by the parliament's most conservative factions, were ahead of everybody else in the promptness and harshness of their response. Sergey Baburin told a news conference on Thursday [18 June] afternoon that he was in doubt as to whether the documents signed in Washington would defend the interests and security of the Russian state.

Pavlov was even more resolute in his negativism: "By signing the new agreements on arms, the president of Russia put an end to his presidency".

The opposite political wing was less fast and organised in its reaction. Aleksey Surkov, a member of the parliament's Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, said "the visit will give the president of Russia more strength to deepen the reforms". He added that it was not accidental that all national-patriots, ferocious reform opponents, hurried to belittle the significance of the documents signed in Washington. Their aim is simple, Surkov said. They aim to smear not only the president's domestic but also his foreign policy.

Surkov then said that it was important for the president not to lose "the charge of cheer he got in America". He will need it in political battles with those who are now openly on the offensive against the Russian Government's policy and reforms.

Joint Meeting Passes Law on Monetary System

LD1806185792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1748 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 18 TASS—The ruble was and remains the main currency unit of the Russian Federation, the Russian parliament affirmed today when voting on the law on the monetary system of the Russian Federation at a joint meeting of its chambers.

The law lays down the legal basis of the Russian monetary system and comprises, in addition to the naming of the main currency unit, the cash emission procedure and the regulation for the monetary circulation.

The law contains a provision saying that no official rate of exchange of the ruble for gold or other precious metals shall be established, while the ruble's official rate of exchange against the money units of other states shall be revised and published by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation on a weekly basis.

The law permits the ruble to be used as a currency unit by other countries but only on the basis of inter-state agreements signed with the Russian Federation.

The Central Bank of Russia shall be the only emitting bank with an exclusive right to issue cash, organize its circulation and withdraw cash from circulation on the territory of the Russian Federation. All accounts on the Russian territory shall be settled in the currency of the Russian Federation, except for cases stipulated by Russian legislation.

The resolution on the enforcement of the law stresses that the bills of the State Bank of the USSR, the small-denomination treasury notes and the coins of the 1961-1991 type in circulation now shall be accepted at their face value on the entire territory of the Russian Federation.

The Government of the Russian Federation and the Central Bank were instructed by the parliament to take measures to encourage in every possible way the introduction of non-cash payments to ensure the curtailment of the need for cash and also the improvement of encashment of the trade returns.

The law shall be enforced from July 1, 1992.

Ryabov Informs Deputies of Draft Law Recall

OW1706112192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [16 June], the Russian government recalled from parliament the draft law on the government for finalization, Speaker of the Council of the Republic Nikolay Ryabov informed the MPs [members of parliament].

Konstantin Yeliseyev, Press-Secretary of ex-vice-premier and now member of the Russian Parliament Sergey Shakhray, said that his boss supports the Cabinet's decision.

This law was drafted by Sergey Shakhray and was submitted to parliament by President Yeltsin in April, during the 6th congress of people's deputies. Shakhray believes that the amendments subsequently made in the draft law cardinally changed its essence, said Yeliseyev.

Session Assesses Results of Talks With Estonia

LD1706142692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1529 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jun—A positive result of the third round of Russian-Estonian talks held 2-4 June was the final drawing up and initialing of the texts of a consular convention, a treaty on legal aid in family, civil, and criminal cases, and an agreement on cooperation in the transport sphere. This was stated at today's session of the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Vladimir Podoprigora, chairman of the parliamentary Committee for Questions of Inter-Republican Relations, Regional Policy and Cooperation, reported that work is also effectively completed on an agreement on customs cooperation. He stressed that the upcoming signing of these documents "will have important significance for the formation of a legal base for Russian-Estonian relations." The chairman of the committee stated that "the concluding stage includes work on a number of draft agreements in humanitarian and economic areas."

At the same time, Vladimir Podoprigora expressed regret that the Estonian side "has suspended talks on the withdrawal of Russian troops and the conditions for their temporary residence on the territory of Estonia." While outwardly declaring their readiness for compromises, said the chairman of the committee, actually the Estonians are not undertaking any real steps in this direction. "In essence," he noted, "the Estonian side is continuing to stick to its own tough positions, insisting on the withdrawal of Russian troops in the current year, and on the fact that all movable and immovable property belongs to Estonia."

Vladimir Podoprigora stressed that the Russian side considers it necessary before the referendum is held on the Estonian Republic's draft constitution for the Supreme Soviet of Russia to discuss the observance of the treaty on the foundations of inter-state relations between the Russian Federation and the Estonian Republic dated 12 January 1991, and Russian-Estonian relations. The parliamentary committees and commissions have been instructed to prepare a draft law on protecting the rights of Russian citizens living outside its borders.

Foreign Ministry Denies Having 'No Concept'

LD1706193992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1656 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 17 TASS—Russia's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday [17 June] denied the allegations it has no concept.

Addressing Russian parliamentarians, Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze said he wanted to contradict the statement and say that Russian foreign policy is composed of the ministry's daily efforts and long-term diplomatic practice.

You cannot expect the ministry to produce a written programme where all aspects of the foreign policy are outlined, he said. The present Foreign Ministry has given up the communist practice to sum up its efforts according to the principle of what has been achieved and what hasn't, he said.

Addenda to Russian Criminal Code Adopted

LD1806111292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The Soviet of the Republic of the Russian parliament adopted an addenda to the Russian Criminal Code. The new article envisages punishment for concealment of large and especially large amounts of income from taxation. It stipulates punishment of up to two years imprisonment. Debate ensued over the additional punishment envisaging the confiscation of property. The draft is to be worked on further.

Regional Affairs

N. Ossetians Approve Khasbulatov Statement

PM1906075392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jun 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Aleshkin: "On Events in South and North Ossetia"]

[Text] Vladikavkaz—Ruslan Khasbulatov's statement on the situation in South Ossetia was perceived with satisfaction in North Ossetia. The Russian leadership's firm position in respect of the genocide of Ossetians was met with approval by the republic population. However, as North Ossetian Supreme Soviet Chairman Akhsarbek Galazov told ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's correspondent, Georgian military formations evaluate this statement by the speaker of the Russian parliament as an infringement of Georgian sovereignty, and it has prompted the new and brutal bombardment of Tskhinvali. South Ossetian Leader Torez Kulumbekov talked about this to Galazov in a telephone conversation. Galazov informed the Russian leadership about the reaction from the Georgian side.

Humanitarian Aid Mission in N. Ossetia Set Up

LD1706162892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0745 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Vladikavkaz June 17 TASS—The Russian mission staying in North Ossetia does not interfere in political issues and is engaged in providing help for South Ossetian refugees, head of the mission Yuriy Voropayev told TASS on Wednesday [17 June].

The mission has set up a mobile hospital in the city which can render help to 150 wounded a day. However, Georgian militants make it impossible to evacuate all the wounded from Tskhinvali, in South Ossetia, Voropayev complained.

There are 124 wounded in Vladikavkaz hospitals, including 19 old people, two women and nine children, he said. Two Russian surgeons from the mobile hospital are treating them.

The number of refugees in North Ossetia varies from 100 thousand to 130 thousand people, according to various sources. 800 people daily arrive to Vladikavkaz.

The Russian mission estimated the necessary amount of help for the republic and the Russian Government allocated 200 million roubles for the purpose. 200 thousand cans of food, 100 tonnes of sugar, 150 tonnes of milk powder will be immediately sent to North Ossetia from the state reserve fund. More food and medicines will be shipped in the second half of the year.

Dudayev on Overcoming Chechen 'Legacy'

AU1806100792 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 8 Jun 92 p 3

[Interview with Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic Natasza Bryzko; place and date not given: "Achieving the Goal Is the Most Important Thing"]

[Text] [Bryzko] Before we start talking about politics, I would like to ask about your personal background?

[Dudayev] I have already talked about my life on many occasions. My life was that of a typical Chechen. My parents were deported after the war. We returned home after spending 13 years in exile, and we found ourselves in a situation that was even worse than the one we experienced abroad. While we were in exile in Kazakhstan, we at least knew that one has to physically stand up to brute force in order to survive. When we returned to our fatherland we found that we were second-class citizens. That was the fate of the entire nation.

[Bryzko] We know that after the war, there were many occupations that Chechens were not allowed to pursue in the USSR and that they were also denied admission to colleges. In light of that, how did you not only manage to become a professional soldier but also build a career and attain the rank of general?

[Dudayev] When I had to consider what profession I should enter, I resolved to reach for the forbidden fruit, that is, the army and even its most elite branch, the Long Range Aviation group. I made an enormous effort, and it paid off. However, when I look back to those years, I don't think that I would attempt the same thing a second time.

[Bryzko] You have been president for the past six months. Are you satisfied with your work so far?

[Dudayev] I think that I have achieved my objective. I would have achieved significantly more were it not for relentless opposition from outside.

[Bryzko] Do you mean independence when you talk about having achieved your goal?

[Dudayev] Independence above all. It has become a fact. We will never yield to any pressure to relinquish our right to independence. There is no force that could today compel the Chechens to join anyone. It is senseless to fight for that.

[Bryzko] You have declared independence, but you surely won't solve all your internal problems that way. I have been in Groznyy for two days and the atmosphere in the town is very tense. At night, despite the curfew, you can hear gunfire, and during the day people do not feel safe walking about the streets. What domestic problems do you have?

[Dudayev] We have many domestic problems. Our legacy is the worst of all the regions of the former USSR. In terms of the four basic indicators of social development, we came last. We were only ahead of the Dolgano-Nenetskiy Autonomous Republic in social conditions. Those are the official statistics for 1991.

[Bryzko] In that case you must have serious personnel problems?

[Dudayev] Of course. In the past, a decent man could not find a job for himself in a honest way. Everything was bought and sold. If you did not buy a post, you could not get on. When you bought a post, you sold your soul to the devil—to the mafia-clan establishment.

[Bryzko] Are you thinking of the communist system?

[Dudayev] Yes, that is, not the ideology itself, but the reality that was formed with its assistance. National traits, the nation's traditions and religion were exploited. There was a merger of the party apparatus and clan structures and an unparalleled degree of corruption. Conditions for normal life were made unbearable.

[Bryzko] I spoke to your information minister a moment ago. He said that there was no such thing as a Chechen mafia. In his opinion, the idea was invented in Russia for propaganda purposes in order to discredit the Chechens. However, in my opinion, the existence of mafia structures is evident to the naked eye. It is not only evident from the tension in the streets, but also from the enormous material disparities in society. There are expensive Western automobiles and wealthy country homes—that could not be obtained by legal means under socialism.

[Dudayev] It is a grave problem. There is a state-party mafia. For the time being it is not the strongest mafia in world terms; it is only just emerging. When I was moving into this office, I wondered what made people hold on to their posts so doggedly, what were, after all, ordinary public service posts. I soon realized that it was not as much as question of power as of being afraid of losing illegal profits on the one hand and a desire to conceal the offenses that they had committed on the other. The problem is a very serious one, but I believe that we will solve it more quickly than the other republics.

[Bryzko] What makes you so optimistic?

[Dudayev] We have many advantages: natural wealth, a good geographic location, and hard-working people. Quite simply, we are walking about on wealth; it's under our feet. We are only just beginning to realize how we were robbed, how, although we were living in paradise, we have found ourselves in hell. The highest mortality rate, the lowest life expectancy, the worst environmental conditions, and a mentality that has been debased by the system, that is the legacy that the Chechen republic was left by the USSR. I recently visited a children's hospital. The conditions there were indescribable. Antediluvian beds, water had to be brought from a well. Those were the effects of a policy that was intended to destroy the nation.

[Bryzko] Apparently, Stalin did not like you....

[Dudayev] Stalin is just a smoke screen. It was no better after him. Gorbachev started off his career with high sounding slogans, and don't forget how that ended. A great deal depended on his entourage. The same thing is happening with Yeltsin now. He started off as a democrat, and ultimately he has found himself completely under the influence of the party nomenklatura. I am sure that in a few years time he will be recalled with more consternation than Stalin.

[Bryzko] You will allow me to differ on that. Russia's power structures really do contain a lot of former party bosses who are opposed to Yeltsin's policies, but he is nevertheless very consistent in his actions.

[Dudayev] But just consider what is going on there. A military junta is in power there. Georgia is a good example. Shots were fired at defenseless people during a demonstration there. Children and old people were shot. Sheer vandalism, and it was all done to ensure that Shevardnadze, who is supported by the Russians, would come to power.

[Bryzko] However, let's return to the Chechen Republic and domestic politics. You talked about the republic's great economic potential. Where do you intend to look for economic partners?

[Dudayev] We already have partners and have signed a whole number of agreements.

[Bryzko] With whom?

[Dudayev] I do not want to talk about that now to avoid prematurely creating problems for myself. We are not counting on people being attracted by our cheap raw materials or cheap labor. We are a proud nation. We are counting on partnership, on joint production, and the equal distribution of profits.

[Bryzko] What can you produce?

[Dudayev] Everything. There are all kinds of industries on the territory of the republic. In addition, our location is excellent. We are at the heart of the Caucasus.

[Bryzko] But aren't you afraid that you won't be competitive on world markets?

[Dudayev] Of course we will be. We intend to invest in production, in modernizing technology. Our program also emphasizes joint enterprises.

[Bryzko] Investment requires a lot of capital. Do you have sufficient resources?

[Dudayev] We will find the resources. There is great potential in our heavy industry. We will put everything into production. Russia's misfortune is that it did not invest in modernizing technology. All the credits were used to buy consumer goods. Output declined. We will do things differently.

[Bryzko] Nevertheless, it seems to me that you have to be recognized by Russia in order to have more access to contacts with the rest of the world.

[Dudayev] What do you mean by recognition? Our right is recognized by the Almighty. There is no nation that deserves recognition more than the Chechens. We have earned it by struggling over thousands of years. We would have preferred destruction to surrender. No other nation has fought as much for its independence.

[Bryzko] There was almost a coup in the Chechen Republic a month ago. It is being said that it was organized by people who oppose you. Could you tell us who makes up that opposition?

[Dudayev] I have already said that I would like to deal with a genuine opposition that proceeds from a legal basis, that campaigns, and that has its own political and legal program. What is currently termed the opposition are old party-clan structures that have lost real power, but have large incomes that originate in the shadow economy and thus possess considerable influence. These people are fighting to restore their power and privileges and their policies, which in reality came down to robbery.

[Bryzko] Your countryman Ruslan Khasbulatov is the chairman of the Russian Supreme Council. What is your assessment of him as a politician? How much authority does he still enjoy in the republic?

[Dudayev] I admit that I do not consider him to be a wise and farsighted politician. He is a plaything in the hands of the Russian authorities. We do not hold anything against him, but we would prefer to see a countryman to behave somewhat differently.

All the criminal activities pursued by Russia were in effect supported by Khasbulatov. He is hostage of the Russian leadership's rapacious, criminal policy course. He must play their game in order to retain his position. Anyone would do the same thing in his position. I am sure that once he has done what he was needed for, he will be removed. "You have done your bit, now you can go." That is the fate of all puppet politicians. Today, they are all completely in the hands of private entrepreneurs. If they want to get out of playing the game, they are told to "sit." They have no room for maneuver. That is the situation in which most Russian politicians find themselves.

[Bryzko] You are very critical of Russian politicians. Are you capable of being self-critical?

[Dudayev] I am not a politician. Anyone who calls himself a politician has dirty hands. I do not want to be that kind of politician.

[Bryzko] Who are you then?

[Dudayev] I am a full-fledged citizen who has his own program, a definite goal, and is striving to realize it in an open manner. If someone wants to fight me, then they are welcome to do so, but by legal means. So far no one has seriously questioned my program.

[Bryzko] Don't you think that you have made mistakes?

[Dudayev] I have made many mistakes. However, to avoid mistakes, I am building an apparatus and an army. I am also looking for advisers, and we are now working on the draft of a new constitution. We would like it to be the constitution for a presidential republic. Many mistakes will still be made, but in my opinion there is a goal to be realized and that is the most important thing.

Chechen President on Future of Ingushetia

LD1706204292

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1740 GMT on 15 June, in its "Novaya Studiya Presents" program, broadcasts a 20-minute program discussing the future of Ingushetia. The program begins by describing the history of Checheno-Ingushetia and, among others, interviews Beksoltan Saynoroyev, chairman of the People's Council of Ingushetia, and Issa Kadzoyev, chairman of the Equality Party or Niyskho.

Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, is asked: If the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted a law on the setting up of the Ingush Republic, would it mean anything to you? He replies: "It would mean nothing other than being yet another provocation. The Ingush people must be given the right to choose. In order to do that, they must assemble a congress of their own, promulgate a declaration, elect an executive committee in charge of implementing the decisions contained in that declaration, adopt provisional laws—above all the Constitution and five basic laws—to repeat the path we have covered."

The unidentified interviewer then asks: "Can territorial disputes arise between Checheniya and Ingushetia?"

Dudayev replies: "You know, our disputes so easily lend themselves to solutions without interference on the part of a third party, that this question essentially does not arise to begin with. Of course, the Supreme Soviet's decision, taken either now or in the future, will again pour oil on the fire, as it will have been done in order to provoke a conflict between Chechens and Ingushes through territorial disputes which, in essence, we do not even have—it is one people. For instance, I do not know where the Ingushes are and where the Chechens are."

The interviewer asks: "Are you saying that to this very day it is your view that Checheniya and Ingushetia are one state?"

Dudayev replies: "That is my view. It will continue to be my view and I am confident that it is one state and we will get there yet."

The interviewer asks: "What is your view of the desire on the part of a certain proportion of the Ingush people to move forward with Russia?"

Dudayev replies: "It is just a proportion, while what I need is an expression of the interests of the overwhelming majority of the people."

The program announcer adds that on the day of the interview, 6 June, the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted the law setting up the Ingush Republic. The video shows a well attended rally.

Moscow Deputies Discuss Rule of Law

MK1806133892 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 17 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by Tatyana Tsyba: "'You Won't Stop the Song,' Moscow Soviet Chairman Gonchar Said, and Sang It Through to the End"]

[Text] Moscow deputies of all levels met yesterday in the former communist sociopolitical center on Tsvetnoy Boulevard.

They sang a familiar tune: about the rule of law in Moscow. There were some important guests in the front rows—Deputy Baburin and General Makashov. But they did not perform a solo turn because they have nothing to do with Moscow as deputies, and the fact that they live in our city does not make them Muscovites.

In a 10-minute speech Nikolay Gonchar managed to summarize everything of urgency. He recalled the days when "we all marched under the slogans of decentralization." We know what became of that. All the other speakers maintained the tone set by the chairman.

What irritated the deputies of all levels (11 from the Supreme Soviet, 51 from Moscow soviet, and 350 from rayon soviets)? The lack of essential laws. There are more than enough nonessential ones, but as for the laws that the soviets need—there are none. In its resolution this "eminent assembly" noted that the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the president's decrees have removed the capital's executive organs from the control of representative organs. The Moscow experiment ended in failure, local deputies believe.

But it is precisely the people who are now campaigning so zealously for the observance of the laws who flouted them in the past. In Cheremushkinskiy Rayon, for example, they high-handedly abolished the executive committee by way of an experiment while in Krasnopresnenskiy Rayon they took over the land, water, and air space contrary to all sensible laws....

Deputies do not like the "unwieldy system of management" which has room for the soviets but not on such a scale or with different functions.

Muscovites are entitled to ask yet again what all this has to do with them. A lot. These deputies are speaking on your behalf, demanding from the president nothing less than that all previous decisions relating to Moscow be revoked, that the mayor's powers be withdrawn, and that the president's decrees and decisions be brought into line with the decisions made by Moscow's Lesser Soviet and Moscow City Soviet.

Sobchak Reform Program for G-7 Meeting Viewed

MK1806144692 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 2

[Denis Gurinskiy report under "St. Petersburg" rubric: "Sobchak Has Decided To Correct Gaydar's Reforms: New Economic Draft Published at 'Revolution Headquarters'"]

[Text] It seems that Anatoliy Sobchak is beginning to replace his almost 5-year-long antigovernment rhetoric with the publication of his own economic plans. That was why he ordered city hall's Committee for Economic Strategy to prepare a set of alternative programs for the implementation of the reforms as soon as possible.

The first such draft was prepared at the end of May by Georgiy Khizha's expert group, and some of its authors have now migrated to the Russian Government along with their boss. Sobchak's programmatic report "Overcoming Established Stereotypes" is timed to coincide with the July summit of the G-7 heads of state and, in the mayor's words, is designed "...to convince Western leaders and Gaydar's team of the defective nature of their chosen tactics."

The preamble to Sobchak's report declares the principles of the convergence of the capitalist and postsocialist systems, principles which include the radical restructuring of the United Nations, the IMF, and the World Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Essentially, however, the report only plans to change the IMF program for assisting the Russian reforms.

Protesting against Russia's classification as a "developing" country, the mayor lists a number of fundamental ways in which it differs from Third World countries: the predominance of the state monopoly organization of labor, developed science and industry, a high general educational and vocational level, and finally the lack of significant contrasts between rich and poor. In view of these factors, Sobchak takes issue with all the principles contained in the Russian Government's agreement with the IMF. He warns Western leaders that the implementation of the agreement—that is, the achievement of a deficit-free budget and political stability—will incite a "social explosion and the general indignation of the people, thereby jeopardizing the process of Russia's democratic renewal."

The plan of Western support for Russia's reforms proposed by Sobchak is based on four principles:

—abandonment of economic ties built exclusively via intergovernmental agreements;

—transition from economic cooperation at state level (state credit and trade deliveries via state centralized structures) to direct ties and cooperation with regional authorities and commercial structures;

—the creation of programs to assist Russia's integration into the world economy;

—priority for conversion projects in overall cooperation.

According to information from Sobchak's staff, it is expected that these principles will be concretized on the eve of the Munich meeting.

The mayor does not neglect to remind Western governments about fresh supplies of humanitarian aid for next fall and winter. However, he urges the West "to elaborate a new mechanism for those supplies and to transform the concept of 'humanitarian food aid' into the 'sale to Russia of surplus food from the EEC countries and the United States'." Sobchak intends investing the rubles earned from the sale of those goods at domestic market prices in a single fund which would be set up under the aegis of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In the future this capital, the mayor believes, could be used by local administrations to grant preferential credit to private farmers and small businessmen and, in conjunction with Western suppliers, could also be used to buy real estate and provide social protection for the needy. The realistic combination of these elements, Sobchak believes, will be a "powerful catalyst of Russia's economic development."

Opinions vary in the Smolnyy as to the reasons for the production of these documents, which are to be submitted by Sobchak to the Munich meeting. The most plausible version, circulating among people close to the authors of the plan, is that the real initiator of the project was Georgiy Khizha. It seems that the Smolnyy needs preferential credit for its policy without going through the federal government, regionalization, and supplies of commodities to St. Petersburg directly.

St. Petersburg Shares CPSU Assets With Region

OW1706181692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputies of the St. Petersburg City and the Leningrad Region Councils divided the CPSU assets at a joint meeting Wednesday [17 June]. St. Petersburg's share is 75%, whereas the region gained 25% of all the assets of the CPSU estimated at over 55 million rubles based on prices at the time of construction.

The city will receive 9 buildings of district party committees and one garage, meanwhile 14 buildings and 3 garages will be transferred to the regional authorities. The Smolny and Marble Palaces are not considered CPSU assets.

Russian Official Discusses Tyumen River Project

SK1806082692 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 0800 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Interview with (Andrey Zaboruniy), official of the Primorskiy Kray Executive Committee; from the "Far East" radio magazine]

[Text] A few countries are interested in jointly developing a delta region in the estuary of the Tyumen River. They are Russia, China, and Korea [Choson], followed by Mongolia and Japan. The UN Development Program [UNDP], a large international organization, held meetings in Ulaanbaatar, Pyongyang, and Seoul. Another meeting will take place in Beijing. (Andrey Zaboruniy), an official of the Primorskiy Kray Executive Committee, headed a Russian delegation to a meeting of experts from various countries.

[Begin (Andrey Zaboruniy) recording] Discussions were held on various documents prepared by the UNDP experts. These documents created differing views to a certain extent. For example, China proposed that an approximately 1,000-square-km economic special zone be established in a delta region in the estuary of the Tyumen River and that it be run internationally. In a word, China hopes that a new Hong Kong will be established and that Far East countries will run it [words indistinct]. However, the DPRK delegation considers this plan to be a daydream. The DPRK demands that separate regions be established in the [words indistinct].

A basic reason for the difference in views is the [word indistinct] and worry of the countries. [Words indistinct]; China hopes to find its exit to the sea; and North Korea has serious ideological differences.

The Russian delegation gave constructive suggestions. We advanced two proposals for discussion: One is to establish an international zone, that is, [word indistinct], and another is to establish separate economic zones and discuss the possibility of developing these zones and coordinating cooperation. Hunchun of China, Najin of the DPRK, and Vladivostok of Russia [words indistinct].

We stated our position as follows:

No one can talk about about defects in each proposal before examining the feasibility of the two proposals on a highly professional level. When technological and economic concepts are examined and when, to use Western terminology, intent of investment is examined, then high-level intergovernmental meetings will take place, and appropriate decisions will be adopted at those meetings.

Since the UNDP as an international organization is planning to appropriate $3.5 million for the development of this region, the participating countries will use it. [Word indistinct], all the participating countries will benefit from this plan. Cooperation will normalize to a certain extent, information will be exchanged, and it will be far easier to solve all the problems. In mapping out this plan, Russian, Chinese, and Korean people will be able to [words indistinct] and receive assistance from international consultants. Those consultants will give advice to developing countries, developed countries, and big (?multinational) corporations.

[Passage indistinct] Experts' preliminary estimates show that the Tyumen River estuary can attract tourists. Many Japanese tourist companies are planning to send representatives to Primorskiy to visit Fosyet and examine the possibility of opening tourism courses. [passage indistinct] The participating countries are supposed to express their views for or against the Tyumen River project before June.

I was surprised to see the UN representatives broadly perceive various problems and handle them flexibly. It is very difficult to coordinate the interests of the six countries—the three countries which have common borders [Russia, China, and the DPRK], plus Mongolia, the ROK, and Japan. [passage indistinct] I think that all the pertinent countries must participate in the Tyumen River development plan. At a time when European people are talking about a common European organization, there is no reason we must not try to establish a special economic zone, at least, if not an Asian organization. [end recording]

Kamchatka 'Fleet' Decides on Privatization

PM1806140792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Video report by V. Plotskiy; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Plotskiy] A fleet [not further specified] conference at the port of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy has decided, almost unanimously, to provisionally divide up the shares in the 42-million-ruble privatization fund as follows: 25 percent of shares to be issued free to the collective; 15 percent to be allocated in a preferential flotation; 5 percent to go to the leadership (which includes all the captains of the base's ships); and the final 50 percent to be auctioned off. No more than a handful of enterprises in the oblast have applied for privatization to the State Committee for the Management of State Property. Admittedly, the enterprises whose collectives have decided on privatization are among the leading enterprises in Kamchatka—both in terms of the number of workers and in terms of the amount of output they produce. [video shows A.I. Usov, chairman of the commission for the administration of state property]

I'd like to know whether those of us who live in Kamchatka will be seeing any benefits for ourselves in the foreseeable future?

[Usov] You probably will—if only for the simple reason that the labor collectives or the people who work at these soon-to-be-privatized enterprises will be in charge both of their working time and, above all, of their output. And they won't have to depend on directives from on high. [video shows Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy port scenes, Usov]

Cash Shortage Reported in Gus Khrustalnyy

LD1706213392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Pensioners in the town of Gus Khrustalnyy in Vladimir Oblast stormed a post office today. The reason for the action was quite prosaic: a lack of cash. But even this did not yield the desired result as the funds were low and there was not enough to go around. The major enterprises in Gus Khrustalnyy are also suffering an acute lack of cash. At the glass works, wages have not even been paid for April. There are many discontented people among those on vacation because of the decision not to give more than 1,500 rubles per person. At night outside the savings banks and post offices there are camp fires with people keeping watch lined up to receive their own savings, which far from everyone manages to receive. [passage omitted]

International Affairs

More on Kravchuk's Final Paris News Conference

PM1906094992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jun 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Yuriy Kovalenko report: "Leonid Kravchuk: 'We Want Relations Between Russia and Ukraine To Be Like Those Between the United States and Canada'"]

[Text] Paris—Ukraine approves of the U.S.-Russian Treaty on Reducing Strategic Nuclear Weapons, proceeding from the fact that Kiev has taken the decision to liquidate nuclear arsenals located on its territory and become a nonnuclear state. This was declared by Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk at a news conference devoted to the results of his visit to France.

L. Kravchuk mentioned the agreement among the four nuclear states—Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Byelarus—according to which they are participants in the Treaty on Reducing Strategic Nuclear Weapons concluded between the USSR and the United States. Yeltsin was holding talks in Washington on Russia's behalf, the Ukrainian president stressed, and therefore he did not need to consult with me first.

Did L. Kravchuk not consider it premature for Ukraine to reduce its strategic weapons, given the constant threats stemming from Russia? No, he did not. That is our policy, he said, and we intend to conduct it consistently. We can count on our own forces and on our integration into the European community to guarantee our security.

"We will discuss relations with Russia in a broad political and economic context with Boris Yeltsin 23 June," the Ukrainian president stressed. What we want to have with Russia are equal, extensive links which befit our history. Basically, we want relations between Ukraine and Russia to be like those which exist between Canada and the United States. This is our ideal. However, not only Ukraine must want this, but Russia too.

L. Kravchuk went on to say: We will not discuss the Crimean problem with Boris Yeltsin. This is a problem of relations between Ukraine and Crimea. A delegation has been formed to draw up an agreement between the Ukrainian and Crimean parliaments. It is conducting talks on political and economic relations between them.

L. Kravchuk also touched on the problem of Ukraine's withdrawing from the ruble zone. We will withdraw from it once we have reached agreement with Russia, he said. Relevant talks are currently under way. Documents have already been hammered out [narabotannyy]. We do not want either Ukraine or Russia to suffer from this. Everything must be settled in a civilized way.

As for Russia's defense of its borders, that is its right, the Ukrainian president noted. Today, corrupt mafia structures are exporting great quantities of valuables and national wealth out of Russia via not just Ukraine but other states too. Order must be restored in this matter.

L. Kravchuk expressed his viewpoint on the future of the CIS. For us, the Commonwealth of Independent States is a structure which can still play an important role. But it is necessary for all of its members to be equal, with no one state trying to dictate to the others. To achieve this, mechanisms are required, some kind of arbitration system which is capable—even through coercive channels—of bringing about compliance with decisions adopted within the CIS framework.

L. Kravchuk claims that in the current state of affairs the CIS is only compromising itself. Ukraine is not trying to destroy the CIS; it merely wants its structures to work, otherwise it is pointless. The CIS must not be a screen for conducting one state's policy or one state's diktat.

Finally, referring to relations with France, L. Kravchuk said that that country would like to see Ukraine as a participant in all European structures. A Europe without a major European state—which is what Ukraine is—is untenable, he said. Paris understands this, and therefore France's participation in Ukraine's economic and political affairs will further the creation of a new Europe, a new civilized order.

Garrison Commanded by CIS, Ukrainian Admirals

LD1806165192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov]

[Text] Kiev, June 18 TASS—Two commanders are now heading the Sevastopol Garrison, one from Ukraine and one from the Commonwealth Armed Forces. Dual power is reigning there after the Ukrainian Defence Ministry appointed Commander of the Ukrainian Navy, Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin as head of the Sevastopol Garrison.

Another head of the garrison is CIS-appointed First Deputy Black Sea Fleet Commander, Vice-Admiral Vitaliy Larionov, who has been occupying the post for four years.

However, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry said that Kozhin's authority will spread only to the Ukrainian units of the garrison. He will not interfere into the Black Sea Fleet problems until its legal and political status is not determined. [sentence as received]

But the fleet command said the Ukrainian decision violates the republican pledge to avoid unilateral actions concerning the fleet and can destabilise the situation there. Russia and Ukraine had earlier agreed on a moratorium on unilateral actions concerning the disputed fleet.

The Ukrainian and Russian presidents will discuss bilateral relations, including military issues, at a summit meeting scheduled for June 23 in the Black Sea spa of Dagomys.

National Affairs

Parliament Passes Budget, Ratifies U.S. Treaty

LD1806192292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1806 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Litvinov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, June 18 TASS—The Ukrainian parliament today endorsed the Ukrainian state budget for 1992 after a heated debate. Some speakers insisted on the immediate endorsement of the budget while others pointed out that this, the fifth version of the budget submitted by the government, should be rejected.

Still other parliament members suggested revising individual articles of the budget, particularly those that deal with the financing of health services, defence and education.

Finally, the parliament approved the latest version of the budget for 1992 by a majority.

Another item that sparked off a heated debate concerned Ukraine's internal debt.

The bill was approved in first reading.

The only item that was approved without discussion concerned the ratification of the agreement on trade relations between Ukraine and the United States signed by President Leonid Kravchuk during his visit to the United States.

President Leonid Kravchuk took part in the parliament session.

Free Economic Zone Law Passed

OW1806182692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Parliament Thursday [18 June] passed a law on the foundations for forming and operating a special (free) economic zone.

In the free economic zone special customs, financial, tax and other conditions for economic activity of domestic and foreign legal entities and persons were established.

The formation of various functional types of economic zones is provided for in the bill: free customs zones and ports, export and transport zones, customs warehouses, etc.

Kravchuk: Crimea Not in 23 Jun Meeting Agenda

LD1806215692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2005 GMT 18 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has stated that the question of Crimea will not be discussed at his upcoming meeting with Yeltsin in Dagomys on 23 June. This is information from the KHARKOV-NOVOSTI agency.

Ukrainian Coupon Exchange Rate Drops To 1 Ruble

LD1806181992 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The exchange rate of the Ukrainian coupon, a substitute for the monetary unit, is still falling. Early this year the leadership of the Ukrainian National Bank claimed that one coupon would fetch 10 rubles [R]; today, at the currency market in Kiev and most regional centers, less than one ruble is offered for one coupon. Early in July Ukraine expects to withdraw from the ruble zone and later introduce its own currency hrivna. All the rubles available in Ukraine will be turned over to Russia provided they are used to cover the Ukrainian debts. According to sources in Ukraine, Kiev owes Moscow about R25 billion.

Socialist Party Formed, Announces Policy Goals

MK1806150092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 2

[Vladimir Skachko report under "Such a Party Exists" rubric: "Socialist Opposition Appears in Ukraine. Socialists Demand Emergency Measures"]

[Text] The theoretical conference of the Socialist Party of Ukraine [SPU] in Kiev 13-14 June was marked by the appearance of a new socialist opposition. The conference was held in the former V.I. Lenin Museum and fully demonstrated the audience's commitment to Lenin's ideas. This was demonstrated not only by the large number of red banners, socialist slogans, and portraits of the leader of the world proletariat and the flowers around his monument but also by the programmatic documents adopted. Of the 450 elected delegates, 385 voted for the SPU to switch, as many people stated, "from the underground to overt opposition." Vladimir Kizim, chairman of the party's Political Council and one of the party's theoreticians, quite bluntly explained who the target of that opposition is to be. "We are in opposition not to individuals and specific parties but to the erroneous actions of the parliament, government, and the president and his team," he declared. Deputy Aleksandr Moroz, chairman of the SPU Political Council and former leader of the communist majority in parliament, did not contest Kizim's view. Although he repeatedly reminded his party comrades from the presidium that they were at a Socialist Party rather than a Communist Party conference and that those two concepts are not identical, conference delegates were not very keen to demonstrate a readiness for an "independent Ukraine" but instead called for the restoration of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the USSR, the revival of the socialist idea, or the rehabilitation of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, which, in their opinion, was banned unlawfully. Incidentally, the SPU is the only party in Ukraine which permits dual membership so as to enable communists to return to the bosom of their own dear party were the ban on it to be lifted. The socialists defined Ukrainian nationalism or even national fascism as the main political foe and adopted a special resolution of condemnation to that effect. They also stated that they want to build Ukraine on an international basis.

On economic matters, delegates advocated that a program be elaborated as soon as possible "not for protection from the market but for an offensive against it." To that end they drafted a program of emergency measures on economic stabilization. The program is very simple: a return to rigid state planned regulation "on a scientific basis" and support for the state sector and the kolkhoz and sovkhoz system. Emergency measures were proposed to halt the crisis: for example, the proclamation of a moratorium on privatization and the introduction of a separate currency, the state distribution of goods among the underprivileged, and so forth. There were appeals for the introduction of a ration card system and resistance to the encroachment of the IMF and other "world imperialist sharks." In Aleksandr Moroz's opinion, a package of measures of this kind will help stabilize the economic situation and only then is it worth beginning to build the new Ukrainian economy.

New Communist Party Founded in Crimea

LD1906053692 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 0941 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[Excerpt] Simferopol, 16 Jun—Leonid Grach, former first secretary of the Crimean Republican Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, has been elected chairman of the Coordinating Council of the Union of Communists of Crimea. The founding conference of this new organization took place in Simferopol. [passage omitted]

Byelarus

Shushkevich on Building Nuclear Power Plants

OW1906114392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1038 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the Byelarusian parliament Stanislav Shushkevich spoke again in favour of building nuclear power plants in Byelarus. He said during a press conference in Minsk that without nuclear power engineering Byelarus could not develop any further. During his visit to France he discussed with the French leaders the possibility of sharing with Byelarus-French experience in running nuclear power plants. Shushkevich that France was ready to send its experts to Byelarus.

Speaking about his participation in the international ecological forum in Rio de Janeiro, Shushkevich laid special emphasis on his talks with Cuban leader Fidel Castro and with Romanian president Ion Iliescu, whch he said were very useful. I got the impression that Castro is the idol of the Third World, he said. The Cuban leader has a clear mind and the gift to express his thoughts logically. Fidel Castro said that Cuban hospitals were ready to receive Byelarusian children whose health was affected by the Chernobyl accident.

Visa Regulations Needed Due To Crime Wave

LD1706183992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1449 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By CRIME PRESS correspondent Vladimir Glod]

[Text] Minsk, June 17 TASS—A rise in "imported crime" has led Byelarus officials to ask the government to restrict border entry for all foreign guests, including CIS nationals. At a recent meeting headed by the Republican Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich members of the Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs, KGB, and Public Prosecutor's Office acknowledged that establishing visa requirements for all foreigners is the most expedient solution to the problem.

According to Kebich, most of the perpetrators come from the Caucausus region. This year alone citizens from the Republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia have been responsible for committing murders, trading drugs and weapons, and violating a number of economic laws. As a result, particular attention will be paid to visitors from this region.

"This does not mean we are waging a political campaign against the governments of this region, nor do we wish to sever economic ties or the traditional friendly relations our countries have enjoyed," Kebich said, adding that Byelarusian authorities had to intercede to protect the rights and safety of its own citizens.

The visa requirement will effect citizens of all foreign countries, excluding those with which Byelarus will sign independent agreements.

Sanctions Against Serbia, Montenegro Protested

LD1706162392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0949 GMT 17 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Minsk—On June 15, an attempt to picket the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Byelarus was undertaken in Minsk with demands of recognition of Dniester region and support of Serbian and Montenegrian peoples.

Representatives of the All-Byelarus Slavic Assembly, Christian-Democratic Union, Liberal-Democratic Party and the Club of Communists were initiators of the picketing. The pickets distributed leaflets calling on Byelarus not to join Russia's decision backing up sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. The picketing was cut short by law enforcement agencies, because the picket organizers had not handed in an application in the established period and failed to get an official permission of the municipal authorities. The picket participants are going to repeat their action having got an official permission at the Minsk City Executive Committee.

'Party of Communists' Official on Goals

LD1706143492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1415 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Excerpts] The Party of Communists of Byelarus [Partiya Kommunistov Belarusi, PUB] has been officially registered in Minsk. This confirms once again that the process of establishment of associations, parties, and movements in the republic is continuing; there are already dozens of them, which goes to show the polarization of opinion on life, politics, and the state structure. On the line from Minsk now is our correspondent Pete Makritskiy:

[Makritskiy] [passage omitted] This event has passed largely unnoticed in the republic, but, as Viktor (?Shchikin), cochairman of the PKB, told us, the party has over 15,000 members. It is probably the largest mass party in the republic now, and if we are building a rule-of-law, democratic society, their convictions and standpoint must be made known to people. I hope you do not dispute that.

[Studio announcer] No, no objections!

[Makritskiy] No objections. Thank you. In that case, in the studio we have Viktor Valentinovich (?Shchikin), the cochairman of the PKB political executive, as I have said, and I think that both you and I have questions for him.

[Studio announcer] Well, the first question, straight away: How does the PKB differ from the Communist Party?

[(?Shchikin)] Both the PKB and the Byelarusian Communist Party are communist parties. What is the difference? There are substantial differences in the manifesto aims of these parties, and this party has its own charter—the Byelarusian CP did not have its own charter. This party has a new leadership. In practice, we are acting in the political arena as the inheritors of the best traditions of the Byelarussian CP.

[Studio announcer] That is, you do not take everything....

[(?Shchikin), interrupting] Far from everything, only the best.

[Makritskiy] When the epithet Yesterday's Men or Living in the Past is applied to communists, especially the partocrats as they are called, what do you think about that?

[(?Shchikin)] Well, one thing we have had no shortage of lately is epithets. We have learned very well, both on the right and on the left, how to hang epithets on each other. I would say that mankind has not yet come up with anything better than the communist and socialist idea, the future belongs to this idea, and so I would say that any communist party, if it is a true communist party, is a party of tomorrow. [passage omitted]

The main aim of our party is registered in the certificate issued to us by the Ministry of Justice. It is written there that the party's aim is the unification of hired labor in the struggle against exploitation in all forms, and the building of a classless society of social justice. As for our immediate tasks, we are for the adoption of a new election law. We are in favor of restoring the soviets as soviets of working people, and along with elections from territorial constituencies, elections from production-based constituencies should be held. Only this will make it possible to ensure representation worthy of the working people in the bodies of power. [passage omitted]

[Makritskiy] What is your attitude to the former leadership of the CPSU?

[(?Shchikin)] Well, what attitude can you have to people who betrayed the communists? [passage omitted]

Moldova

Supreme Soviet Passes Resolution on Conflict

AU1806162292 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Nicolae Dumitru dispatch from Chisinau]

[Excerpts] The Moldovan parliament resumed its plenary session this morning. The deputies immediately began discussing the draft resolution on establishing a mechanism for the disengagement and disarmament of forces involved in the conflict. [passage omitted] After some pretty heated discussions held within the accepted limits of political dialogue—except for the deaf ones—the parliament adopted with 205 favorable votes the document worked out last night by the Joint Commission, on the basis of three drafts examined yesterday.

After the adoption of the document, Vice Chairman of the Joint Commission (?Bologov), representative of the deputies from the left bank of the Dniester, issued an ardent appeal to all people and all political and military forces to immediately proceed to implementing the decisions of the Moldovan parliament.

Left Bank Lacks Unanimity With Parliament

OW1706212292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1901 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Various organizations and movements in the Dniester region disapprove of Dniester deputies participating in the session of the Moldovan Parliament. The united council of labor collectives from Tiraspol and Slobodazei demanded that the group of deputies dissociate themselves from the latest resolution by the Moldovan Parliament on ending the armed conflict and proposed that the elected officials surrender their powers.

The council proposed that the Congress of People's Deputies be convened by July 1 from all levels of the Dniester republic. The Black Sea Cossacks in Tiraspol made a similar demand and called on Dniester residents to hold a referendum on uniting with Russia.

Fierce Fighting in Dniester Breaks Cease-Fire

LD1906103692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0841 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, June 19 TASS—Cease-fire was violated in the Dniester region of Moldova last night when fierce shootings took place near the city of Dubossary.

Guardsmen and Cossacks several times opened fire from machine-guns, mortars and tanks on positions of Moldovan police overnight, according to Trofim Stefan, a spokesman for the Moldovan Defence Ministry. "The defenders of Moldova fired in response and inflicted considerable losses in materiel and manpower on the enemy. The number of casualties is being determined", he added.

The Tiraspol press centre accused the Moldovan side for attacking positions of guardsmen. Field commanders failed to contact the opposing side and stop the shooting. Two Dniester militants were wounded and damage caused by the clash, the press centre added.

Dniester Defense Minister Cited on Forming Army

MK1806152192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 3

[Interview with Colonel S. Kigak, Dniester Moldovan Republic defense minister, by Aleksandr Tago under "Moldova" rubric; place and date not given: "Dniester Region Has a Defense Minister. Will It Have an Army?"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Colonel Shtefan Kigak, former commander of the Dniester Guard, has become the Dniester Moldovan Republic's [DMR] defense minister. He has been awarded the rank of major general and instructed to form a Dniester army. Shtefan Kigak served in the Soviet Army for 38 years. He was in Czechoslovakia and entered Prague on the night of 20-21 August 1968. In May 1990 he was discharged into the reserve from the post of 14th Army deputy chief of staff after completing the required length of service.

[Tago] How is it that after being discharged from the army you are back in it again, this time as minister?

[Kigak] Seeing the violations and lawlessness being perpetrated by extremists from Chisinau I approached Igor Smirnov and said: "I am ready, Mr. President, to start forming an army." I received the "go-ahead" and have been tackling this difficult problem ever since.

[Tago] Forgive me for asking, but what nationality are you?

[Kigak] I am a Moldovan.

[Tago] Which nationality forms the backbone of the Dniester army that you are forming?

[Kigak] We do not ask those people who are joining us what nationality they are. We have three [as heard] main criteria: loyalty to the republic, professionalism, state of health, and moral-ethical qualities. Nevertheless I have analyzed this in view of the fact that there have been accusations that Moldovans are supposedly being oppressed on the left bank of the Dniester. In this connection I can say that there are more Moldovans in my army than Russians and Ukrainians and that talk of oppression is a fabrication and lie on Chisinau's part. Look at the composition of the DMR Government. I—the defense minister—am a Moldovan national. The interior minister, the vice president, and the Supreme Soviet chairman are all Moldovans. Moldovans have not been and will not be suppressed in the Dniester region.

[Tago] Does your army only contain volunteers?

[Kigak] No, the guard comprises only volunteers, but men have now begun to be drafted into the army. I would like to point out that this is being done for one purpose—to rebuff the aggressors from Chisinau.

[Tago] What about arming the army?

[Kigak] We are buying hardware, including heavy equipment and firearms.

[Tago] Can you tell us from whom?

[Kigak] That is pointless.

[Tago] What are your relations with the 14th Army stationed in the DMR?

[Kigak] We have normal, friendly working relations with them. But we are not embroiling the 14th Army in the conflict. However, in the event of large-scale aggression we expect and are sure that the 14th Army would help us. That is undoubtedly the case.

[Tago] Why are you so sure about this?

[Kigak] Because the 14th Army is mainly made up of officers, warrant officers, NCO's, and enlisted men from here, from the Dniester region. They have families, apartments, and children here. That is why I am confident that the army will help us. We want the 14th Army to stay in the Dniester region because it is our baby, we nurture it, but if the Russian Federation decides to withdraw the 14th Army, Russia will only be withdrawing General Yuriy Netkachev, commander in chief, and a small staff, and the army will stay here. That is why there can be no question of the army being withdrawn from the Dniester region.

[Tago] Let us go back to the armed confrontation on the bridgeheads in the Dubossary area. Could you tell us whether a cease-fire is possible in the near future?

[Kigak] There have been calls for a cease-fire since the third day of the confrontation, but this has not happened. A cease-fire is only possible on one condition: The warring sides' formations must be withdrawn to their permanent bases. If this condition is not met, any talk of a cease-fire is a pipe dream. The war cannot be stopped unless the armed formations withdraw, disarm, and surrender their weapons. Only this can stop people from dying.

Smirnov Relieved From Tiraspol Town Post

LD1706172992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Last night, shelling continued in the Dniester region, ITAR-TASS reports. The committee for defense and security of the Dniester region's Supreme Soviet, citing evidence it has at its disposal, stated that the Moldovan Ministry of National Security is involved in the terrorist activity on the left bank.

Meanwhile, the Moldovan parliament today passed a resolution on the principles of separating the sides in the Dniester region's armed conflict, NEGA reports. The resolution makes provisions for separating the belligerent parties and stopping the mobilization of citizens.

Yesterday, at a session of parliament, Dniester region leader Igor Smirnov was relieved of his post as chairman of the Tiraspol town Soviet of People's Deputies.

Dniester Republic 'Will Not Give In'

PM1806151592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Dniester region leader Igor Smirnov by Valeriy Reshetnikov; place and date of interview not given: "Igor Smirnov: 'We Consider Ourselves Independent'"—first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] The positions of the politicians on either side of the Dniester remain irreconcilable, even when the crackle of automatic weapon fire on the front line dies down. A few days ago IZVESTIYA published an interview with President Mircea Snegur of Moldova. Today we give the floor to the other side. Our correspondent talks to Igor Smirnov, leader of the Dniester region.

[Reshetnikov] Igor Nikolayevich, how do you assess the Moldovan parliament's latest initiatives?

[Smirnov] The parliament adopted a decision on a cease-fire, troop withdrawal, and the establishment of a commission to restore Moldovan state structures in the Dniester region. If the deputies continue to link the first two issues with the last one, this will result in an impasse. The Dniester region is an independent republic. Our independence was proclaimed in a nationwide referendum and unanimously approved at the Dniester region Ukrainians' assembly [veche] and Moldovans' congress. We cannot go against the people's wishes and restore the structures of a foreign state power on our territory. Our government, in proposing the idea of a federation, is already showing a dangerous tendency toward compromise. The people, meanwhile, are in a more radical mood and are demanding a complete break with Moldova.

[Reshetnikov] You have mentioned the congress of Dniester region Moldovans which backed the idea of independence. Yet in Chisinau they are talking about the need to protect the Moldovans living on the left bank...

[Smirnov] At the recent congress the decision to proclaim independence was adopted unanimously. The Dniester region Moldovans are by no means enamored of the idea of creating a "Greater Romania." They do not want to be "second-class" citizens deprived of their language and culture. Therefore it is simply absurd to claim that the interests of our fellow Moldovans are being infringed on the left bank. Anyhow, in recent days officials in Chisinau have no longer mentioned this.

[Reshetnikov] Recently IZVESTIYA published an interview with President Mircea Snegur of Moldova. This material has probably not escaped your attention.

[Smirnov] Frankly, I learned nothing new from the interview. The Moldovan president repeated what he had said many times before. His statements always boil down essentially to accusing the Dniester region of conducting an aggressive policy and blaming Russia for interference in sovereign Moldova's affairs. He is trying to persuade public opinion that the Dniester region is not defending itself against armed Moldovan incursion but is itself the aggressor. In actual fact terrorist groups from Moldova are mounting operations every day to destabilize the situation. In this way the ground is being prepared for a major armed invasion of the Dniester Moldovan Republic. Today Moldova's armed forces, massed on the right bank already, have a five-fold superiority in manpower and hardware.

Not all the deputies in Moldova's parliament are against us. Quite a number of deputies view us with sympathy. Recently, when the conflict was at its height, the Moldovan government resigned. This was a trick in order to gain time and bring pressure to bear on deputies "loyal" to the Dniester region.

We for our part are constantly proposing new options for resolving the conflict. We are in favor of withdrawing troops from the front line and entrusting the maintenance of peace to UN "disengagement" [razdelitelnyy] armed formations. However, not one of our proposals has been taken up.

[Reshetnikov] Snegur has proposed the convocation of a conference at the level of the foreign ministers of Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, and Russia to settle the conflict in the Dniester region. How do you appraise this initiative?

[Smirnov] I rate any foreign policy initiatives aimed at achieving a cease-fire positively. I only fail to understand why the Dniester region is not mentioned in this case. The attempt to resolve the conflict without the participation of one of the sides involved in the conflict looks strange, to say the least. Furthermore it is totally incomprehensible to me why Romania should be taking part in these negotiations.

[Reshetnikov] Will Russia be able to withdraw the 14th Army from the region?

[Smirnov] The inhabitants of the left bank will, of course, not look on calmly while the hardware is withdrawn. We will try not to act like Moldova, which is seeking to gain control of the Russian army's weapons by force (the greater part of the latter's hardware and weapons is located on the right bank). We merely seek to persuade the officers and men to join our side and defend the republic. Some units have now switched to our jurisdiction, and this is not suprising since most of the officers are local inhabitants of the Dniester region.

[Reshetnikov] I understand that you have appealed to the Cossacks not to come to the Dniester region.

[Smirnov] Yes, we have thanked them for their assistance and have asked them to refrain from coming to the republic because their participation in the conflict is being used by our adversaries as an example of Russia's interference in the affairs of another state. We have enough manpower to rebut aggression.

[Reshetnikov] War has inflicted great damage on the economy of the Dniester region. But peace will come sooner or later. Will the Dniester region be able to survive in the current economic conditions?

[Smirnov] Of course it will, and not just survive but even live quite well. If this year, under fire, we have managed to avoid a decline in production (production fell by 21 percent only at Dubossary and Grigoriopole enterprises, while at other enterprises it increased), it will be an entirely different matter in peacetime. As distinct from Moldova, which is seeking to gear itself to the West, we have firmly declared that we will stay in the ruble zone. We are not breaking off our economic ties, and we will trade with anyone who is interested. Furthermore, we have plenty to trade with. Russia, to which we supply engineering, tool-making, agricultural, and processing industry goods, remains our main trade partner. Even now we are relatively well provided with food. And we produce a surplus as regards certain types of agricultural produce.

[Reshetnikov] What if the war drags on for years?

[Smirnov] Then, maybe, we will have to tighten our belts. But we will not give in: People are prepared to give their last crust to the front in order to defend their independence.

'Separatists' Diversify Propaganda Effort

AU1806060292 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1707 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 17/6/1992—In parallel with the beginning of the illegal programme of "Radio Pridniestrovia," the separatists in the eastern part of the Republic of Moldova adopted another method to intimidate peaceful population. From a sports-type airplane fly sheets were thrown over the localities in Dubossary and Criuleni districts where the Republic of Moldova's Government is denigrated. In Russian and in incorrect Romanian the separatist propagandists try to mislead people, alleging that the police intend to destroy the hydropower station at Dubossary, that only the Moldovan forces are to be blamed for everything in the Eastern part of the Republic, MOLDOVA-PRES agency informs.

Russian Ambassador Presents Credentials

OW1806141992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 18 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature based on reports by "diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev et al"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The ambassador of the Russian Federation to Moldova Vladimir Plechko has handed his credentials to the Moldovan President Mircea Snegur in Chisinau. In his speech Mr. Snegur voiced hope that despite the recent tension in the relations between the two countries a period of improvement would begin with the opening of the Russian embassy in Moldova.

Before departure for Chisinau Vladimir Plechko told DP's [Diplomatic Panorama's] reporter that his main task is to "promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of Russia and Moldova in every way". Speaking of the situation in the Dniester River valley the ambassador expressed hope for its speedy and peaceful settlement.

DP's Note: Vladimir Plechko, born in 1934, has been a diplomat since graduation from the Institute for Foreign Relations in 1958. A secretary of the USSR consulate in Bratislava, a staff member of embassies in London and Prague, the head of the consulate in New York, deputy Soviet ambassador to the UN, between 1987 and May 1991 the Soviet ambassador to Malta. He has the rank of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. Speaks Ukrainian, Russian, English, Czech and Slovak.

Housing Industry Facing Economic Crisis

LD1806112492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] In the very near future, the severe economic crisis in the Moldovan economy threatens to paralyze the housing industry in Chisinau and the rest of the republic. During the first quarter, the industrial sector used only six percent of capital investment and only five percent of housing projects were completed. In the social sphere construction workers are not as yet being payed for their work. The total sum owed to them by customers has already exceeded half a billion rubles.

Kazakhstan

Alma-Ata Rally Demands Government Resignation

LD1806013192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Alma-Ata correspondent A. Kondrashev report; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] INTERFAX reports that Kazakhstan's parliament interrupted planned hearings to hold a closed sitting at which President Nursultan Nazarbayev assessed the situation in the republic's capital as fraught with the risk of a complete split of society. Several thousand Kazakh opposition members today are holding a rally in front of the parliament building in Alma-Ata:

[Kondrashev] An all-Kazakhstan protest action started in Alma-Ata at 1200 today. (Azat) and Zheltoksan movement supporters came from many republican oblasts to parliament square to share their three demands: First, that the government resign and that a shadow cabinet of ministers be set up to include representatives of today's parties and movements; second, that Communist Party and Komsomol deputies in parliament be expelled and that their seats be made available to these parties; and third, that the money and property of the former Communist Party be handed to other parties. The action's organizers claim that Kazakhstan is following in the wake of Russia's unsuccessful economic policy and is becoming a hostage to its government's mistakes. That is why the demand for the Kazakh Government's resignation and other demands must be fulfilled immediately. If the president ignores them, the action loses its (?time limit).

The republic's leadership has said that the opposition's conditions cannot be accepted, as fulfilling legally illiterate demands will only intensify confrontation. Nazarbayev feels the stand of those holding the mass meeting is not yet the stand of the entire people.

[Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian at 1400 GMT on 17 June carries a brief report on the rally, noting that "members of several parties and public organizations held a rally in Alma-Ata today. Rally participants demanded that the Kazakh Government resign and that heads of oblast and city administrations be empowered to be Supreme Soviet deputies. The rally itself did not gather any significant numbers of people, but opposition leaders assert that they will hold out to the last."]

Adviser Says Opposition Manipulates Laws

OW1806184392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1709 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Nurszltan Nazarbayev's legal adviser Yuriy Khitrin told parliament on Thursday [18 June] that the opposition is violating the current laws by holding a meeting in front of the parliament building and demanding the resignation of the deputies elected by the Communist Party and the formation of a coalition government.

Chairman of Kazakhstan's KGB Bolat Bayekenov proposed on Thursday that the parliament adopt laws that would make the opposition leaders fully responsible for the unsanctioned meetings.

The deputies' attitude to the unsanctioned meeting ranged from complete condemnation to understanding.

Deputy Selyam Isabayev proposed that the parliament set up a conflict commission that would meet with the opposition once a week to discuss disputable issues.

IF [INTERFAX] note: On Wednesday, President Nazarbayev urged the deputies to consider a ban on the unregistered political parties, and the procurator's office to start criminal proceedings in relation to the case of offending the deputies and president's honor and dignity.

Discussion of National Security Law Postponed

OW1906121992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1037 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [19 June], the parliament of Kazakhstan put off the discussion of the draft law on national security and took up the finalized variant of the republican budget for 1992. On Thursday evening Chairman of Kazakhstan's KGB Bolat Bayekenov said as he spoke about the draft law that the national security bodies will report only to the president.

The national security bodies' main task is to supply the president, the parliament and the Cabinet with information pertaining to national security, including information about defences and foreign-policy and foreign economic activity. Academician Salyk Zimanov said that the draft law gives unlimited powers to the national security bodies, including the right to pass normative acts which, he said, may lead to utter lawlessness. Zimanov believes that in its current state the KGB is a body of total internal shadowing. Deputy Murat Auezov believes that this draft law is mostly declarative because it enumerates the KGB's functions, but does not say a single word about the protection of civil rights. Chairman of the KGB Bolat Bayekenov said that the crime rate in growing is the republic and the number of grave crimes is increasing. He proposed that this draft law be adopted without delay because now the law-enforcement bodies' hands are tied. The parliament's press service informed IF [INTERFAX] that on Friday afternoon the MPs [members of parliament] will discuss the resolution on meetings, street manifestations, demonstrations and pickets. For two days running Kazakhstan's political opposition has been picketing the parliament building, demanding the resignation of the current government and the formation of a coalition government. They also demand that the MPs elected by the communist party and the young communist league be recalled from parliament.

Nazarbayev Advocates 'Asian Version' of CSCE

OW1706175192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev spoke out in Alma-Ata on Tuesday [16 June] for organizing "an Asian version of the CSCE process". Meeting with a UN delegation he said that for Kazakhstan and all Central Asia "keeping stable peace in multi-national societies is the crucial problem" and that spots of tension there can lead to "grave consequences". As a step in that field, he suggested holding an Asian conference on measures of trust in the region that could forestall possible conflicts.

In the talks between Nazarbayev and the UN delegation an agreement was reached on opening a UN representation in Alma-Ata. Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed a wish that the UN office "should also serve the neighboring states of Central Asia".

Defense Minister Meets NATO Delegation

LD1706190592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1600 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Alma-Ata, June 17 TASS—Kazakhstan's Defense Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov received a NATO delegation on Wednesday [17 June]. The two sides discussed the way Kazakh Armed Forces are being created and possible military cooperation between Kazakhstan and NATO.

Foreign Minister Meets With Officials

Meets Polish Ambassador

LD1706112892 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Kazakh Foreign Minister Tuleutai Suleymenov met Stanislaw Chiosek, Polish ambassador to the Russian Federation, on 12 June. The prospects for Kazakh-Polish relations were discussed. An accord was reached on preparing the text of a bilateral political treaty, a consular convention, a trade and economic agreement, and other documents which would prepare the ground and lay the political and legal foundations for developing relations between the two countries.

Meets UN Official

LD1906043792 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Tuleutai Suleymenov met a UN delegation led by (?Raymond Sonrikson) today. They discussed issues connected with opening a UN mission in Kazakhstan and providing concrete aid to the republic by this international organization as well as the possibility of concluding the relevant documents. Particular attention was paid to organizing communication channels for mutual contacts.

Holds Talks With Algerian Envoy

LD1906041792 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] On 15 June, Foreign Minister Tuleutai Suleymenov received Mohamed Yala, Algerian ambassador to the Russian Federation. Both sides said they favor mutually advantageous economic and scientific and technical cooperation, particularly in the area of oil and gas processing. Measures to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries were examined.

Country To Sell Grain for Currency, Equivalent

OW1706195492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1901 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said at the evening session of Parliament that beginning this year Kazakhstan will be sell grain outside the republic for hard currency or its equivalent. Nazarbayev also said that he had already instructed Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko on this matter.

Nazarbayev said it is "unnatural" for such an agrarian country as Kazakhstan to import grain from abroad. The President noted that in the last year the government obtained foreign credits of 150 million US dollars to support farming.

The President added that in principle he supports the policy of liberalization of prices not only in farming but in industries as well. However, he said, the government does not want to cancel state orders.

Tajikistan

Presidential Decree Forms National Guard

LD1806225192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] In accordance with a decree by the president of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Defense Committee of the republic today drafted a number of essential documents to set up a National Guard. The documents say that the National Guard of the Republic of Tajikistan is an armed organization under the Defense Committee and is part of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Tajiikstan.

The National Guard is to safeguard the constitutional structure of the Republic of Tajikistan, protect the president, the government, and important government installations, to perform unexpected tasks as they arise, to rescue people and their property in a disaster or emergency, to prevent illegal actions, and to maintain security at civil and [words indistinct].

The National Guard will take part in ceremonies welcoming and seeing off heads of state who visit the Republic of Tajikistan. The personnel of the National Guard are to be employed by contract from among the people who have served in the army. The officers of the National Guard will be employed from among the officers of the Armed Forces of the republic, the CIS, the National Security Committee, and the border and internal forces in accordance with the service regulation of the officers of the Armed Forces and the border and internal forces.

Military personnel, not over age 45, will be recruited for the National Guard. The initial term of service in accordance with the contract is fixed at three years. Following completion of this term of service, the contract may be extended each time for a period of three-and-a-half or ten years at the request of the soldier or officer. The headquarters for the units of the National Guard is in Aini township, which is in the [word indistinct] of Dushanbe city.

Interior Ministry on Clashes With Islamists

OW1806162592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1413 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The situation in the Kulyab region in the south of Tajikistan has not been settled, the Tajik Interior Ministry's press center announced. On Wednesday [17 June] night, there was fire between a self-defence unit supporting the Islamic Revival Party and a unit of the president's guards. The guards' commander Talabsho Sangov and his brother were killed. Several people on both sides were wounded. There were also armed clashes between units of various political parties in other regions of the republic.

Situation in Vakhsh, Bakhtar Rayons 'Critical'

LD1806203192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The situation in Kurghanteppa Oblast is a little uneasy. Fresh shooting has taken place, and according to reports, one person was wounded. The situation is particularly critical in Vakhsh and Bakhtar rayons. An armored vehicle belonging to the Internal Affairs Department of Vakhsh rayon, used for the defense of the citizens, fell into the hands of the opposition. Today, a special unit from the Internal Affairs Ministry of the republic was sent there to normalize the situation and recover the armored vehicle.

Buildup of Weapons Marks Drift Toward War

PM1806115192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jun 92 p 1

[U. Babakhanov under the rubric "On Internal Fronts" and the heading: "Dushanbe: The Smooth Flow of Speeches Is Rarely Interrupted by the Crackle of Machinegun Fire"]

[Text] The "silent" war between the various armed groupings in Tajikistan is continuing. The longer it lasts, the more the struggle assumes a narrow, local character. Kulyab Oblast, backing the official authorities, has declared its nonsubordination to Dushanbe: They take the view there that the government of national reconciliation formed as a result of talks with the opposition is illegal. War has been declared in the oblast on all supporters of the Islamic Revival Party. One of its most prominent leaders, the 36-year-old Kori Ibragim, was taken hostage a few days ago. A Kulyab guard was discovered shot dead in Kulyab yesterday morning.

People originating from Kulyab Oblast have also stepped up their activities in other parts of the republic. A few days ago three "Alazan" hail guns were seized in Kolkhozabad. Opponents of the central government in Vakhshskiy Rayon suddenly have modern mortars in their arsenal.

It seems that the drift is toward war. For the time being, the official authorities are not taking any urgent measures to avert it. Active preparations are under way in Dushanbe for the Tajik president's visit to Iran scheduled for the end of the month.

Buildings Captured by Rakhman's Supporters

LD1806222892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1444 GMT 18 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dushanbe—During the morning of June 18, in the town of Pyandzh (Tajikistan), the buildings of the district interior and national security committee precincts were captured.

According to information received by PF [POSTFACTUM] from sources close to the chief of Pyandzh frontier detachment, around 40 supporters of Tajikistan's president, Rakhman Nabiyev, armed with automatic weapons, arrived in Pyandzh from Sovietskiy district of Kulyab region in 2 trucks. The buildings of the district militia and security precincts were captured without a single shot being fired. The security officials handed in their arms for safekeeping to the frontier detachment's department and are in hiding for fear of possible reprisals.

Vice Premier Calls CIS 'An Unviable Entity'

OW1806175292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's Vice-Premier and Vice-Chairman of the Islamic Revival Party Davlat Usmon told IF [INTERFAX] in an exclusive interview that the sociopolitical situation in Tajikistan remains unstable, while confrontation which reached its peak in Dyushambe on May 6 to 11 is still strong. He believes that tensions have eased slightly in Dyushambe and in individual regions of the republic. In Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube, rifts between the old and new forces are growing.

He said that the government of national reconciliation has drafted a new economic programme which is still to be finished. Tajikistan's foreign policies have not undergone any meaningful changes, he said, and to this day no bilateral agreements have been concluded with any of the CIS states, while President Nabiyev has not paid a single official visit to any foreign state. Davlat Usmon believes that to begin with, President Nabiyev must visit the Islamic Republic of Iran. Speaking about Tajikistan's foreign-policy guidelines, he said that his republic should turn towards Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. He said that the borders with Afghanistan should be opened as soon as possible. The fact that Termez (the south of Uzbekistan) is the only customs post on the border with Afghanistan, complicates border trade, he said.

Touching upon CIS affairs, Davlat Usmon said that the CIS is an unviable entity, which can be seen from the disputes between Ukraine and Russia. Once shattered, the USSR should be broken to the end, and a new union should be built on a radically new basis. He said, however, that the former Union republics should maintain economic relations. As to the ideas of pan-Turkism, Tajikistan relations with the CIS's Turkic states are particularly friendly and intensive, he said. He also noted that Tajikistan should conclude bilateral agreements on cooperation with all of the Central Asian Republics and with Kazakhstan.

The vice-premier believes that it is religion not ethnic origin that should be the main element uniting the Central Asian republics. We are Muslims and our union should be based on Islam, he said. He noted, however, that Tajikistan will never join any Islamic Turkestan and will develop as a sovereign state. The form of government will depend on the will of the people.

The armed forces located in Tajikistan, including the frontier guards, should be put under the jurisdiction of the republic which has ample opportunity to solve the socioeconomic problems facing servicemen, as well as the financial and material problems facing the armed forces.

Asked how the Islamic Revival Party was getting ready for the new parliamentary elections, Usmon said that since he became a member of the government he has departed from party affairs and has no information on the score.

Presidential Aide Discusses Economic Trends

OW1806185292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidential advisor on economic matters Rustam Mirzoyev has described the results of economic development in the country in the first six months of the year as lamentable. Compared to last year industrial production dropped by 13.2%, the production of consumer goods by 19%, the volume of construction by 65% and capital investments by 70%. The price index quadrupled while incomes increased by only 130%.

The advisor sees the way out primarily in shaping an independent national economy and effectively integrating it in the world system. In his opinion new organizational, legal and economic mechanisms are necessary, diverse forms of supporting competition and offering government assistance. It is also necessary to increase the export potential of the republic by boosting the production of aluminium and cotton—the main Tajik export article.

In Mirzoyev's opinion in order to stop the slump it is necessary to introduce new tax incentives. For every percent of actual production growth companies irrespective of the form of ownership, the physical volume of production or services should have their profit tax reduced by one point. If a company produces consumer goods the tax benefit can be 1.5% and in farming 6%. The advisor thinks that if in the process of privatization the new owner pledges to boost the material volume of production by at least 5%, he should be given more advantageous banking credits for purchasing the company.

Health Cooperation Agreement Signed With Iran

LD1806170492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By TIA KHOVAR correspondent Gulnur Khasanova for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, June 18 TASS—Iran will help build a medical plant in Tajikistan, according to an agreement on cooperation in health services signed by the two countries.

The document also envisages that Tajik medical students will be trained in Iranian hospitals, Iranian Health Minister Reza Malekzadeh told TASS on Thursday.

The foreign policy priority will be given by Tajikistan to Iran, with which "we shall be actively developing all-round cooperation", Tajikistan's President Rakhman Nabiyev said meeting Malekzadeh.

Russian Leaders Concerned Over Russian Minority

LD1806190192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1202 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, June 18 TASS—"Russian leaders are concerned about the position of the Russian-speaking population in Tajikistan in conjunction with a new wave in Russians' migration from the Republic," charge d'affaires of Russia in [words indistinct]

The representative of the Russian foreign policy establishment is in Dushanbe on the invitation of the Tajik Government in connection with the decision to open a Russian embassy here and also to participate in working out a treaty on the basic principles governing the relationships between the two sovereign states.

According to Kholiknazarov, his government is sincerely worried over [words indistinct] citizens who always lived in peace and accord with Tajik brothers.

He emphasised that all of the latest efforts by the Tajik leadership, the leaders of political parties and movements were designed to achieve mutual understanding and clarify Tajikistan's state policy that aims at respecting and protecting the rights of the national minorities residing in the republic.

During the talk, Kholiknazarov emphasised that the Tajik leadership will never allow any discrimination against their Russian-speaking brothers because the peoples of Russia and Tajikistan were always binded together by close bonds of friendship.

The Tajik people keep in their hearts the most sincere gratitude to the sons of the Russian, Ukrainian, Byelarusian, Jewish and other peoples who extended the unestimable assistance to the young republic in developing its economy, science and culture, he added.

At the same time, the sides realised the need to elaborate as soon as possible a bilateral treaty that would define the legal status of the Russian-speaking population in Tajikistan and Tajiks in Russia.

During the visit, Ilyin met and talked with Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev and officials from the government of national reconciliation.

Uzbekistan

President Karimov Concludes South Korea Visit

LD1906103192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0812 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul, 19 Jun—Today President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov concluded his official visit to the Republic of Korea, where he has been visiting at the invitation of ROK President No Tae-u. In the course of his four-day stay in Seoul the first South Korean-Uzbek top-level talks were held. A number of documents which create the legal basis for expanding mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries were signed.

Islam Karimov and No Tae-u signed "a declaration on the fundamentals of interstate relations and cooperation," which notes that the sides will be developing friendship between them on the basis of the UN Charter and on the principles of respecting and recognizing the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of each other, and noninterference into internal affairs. Uzbekistan and South Korea pledge to carry out exchanges in the spheres of the economy, culture, education, media, sports, and tourism. Documents on trade and economic exchange and guarantees for South Korean investments in developing the economy of Uzbekistan and on problems of issuing visas to citizens of both states were also signed.

First Deputy Prime Minister Ismail Dzhurabekov, Uzbek Foreign Minister Ubaydulla Abdurazzakov, leaders of other ministries and departments, parliamentarians, and businessmen composed the Uzbek delegation.

Islam Karimov has become the first head of a CIS state to officially visit Seoul since the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and Uzbekistan were established on 29 March 1992.

Karakalpak Supreme Soviet Officials Resign

PM1706163192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 4

[PRAVDA/RIA/Novosti report under the rubric "Briefly and Clearly"]

[Text] Dauletbay Shamshetov, chairman of the Karakalpakstan Supreme Soviet elected 15 months ago, and Aminbay Tadzhiyev, chairman of the Council of Ministers, quit their posts last week.

The major cause of the resignations, observers believe, is the lack of clear demarcation of powers between the legislative and executive authorities, which has led to confrontation at the various levels of government.

Ubbiniyaz Ashirbekov, khakim (head of the administration and soviet) of Takhtakupyrskiy Rayon, has been elected the new chairman of the Republic of Karakalpakstan Supreme Soviet. He is 48 years old and a hydraulics engineer by profession who worked for many years in hydroeconomic construction. The post of government chairman remains vacant for the time being. D. Shamshetov has been approved as first deputy head of the Council of Ministers.

Interest in Relations With Pakistan Noted

OW1806140692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 18 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature based on reports by "diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev et al;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbekistan is planning to expand trade, economic and cultural ties with Pakistan. This was disclosed by a spokesman for the Uzbek Foreign Ministry Ilkh Zakirov. He told IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent in Tashkent that during the coming visit to Uzbekistan by the Pakistani Prime-Minister Nawaz Sharif a number of trade, economic and cultural agreements are to be signed. According to the diplomat, until recently the two countries did not have "solid ties" even though the two peoples have felt mutual sympathy since ancient times and have a common culture and traditions.

Government Receives 60 Tons of Medical Supplies

OW1606224492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press center of the Uzbekistan Foreign Ministry reports that Uzbekistan has received 60 tons of more than 400 kinds of medicine and 5,000 tons of food supplies for a year and a half as a foreign aid from Turkey, the USA, Japan, India, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. The aid also came under the auspices of the European Community Commission.

World Bank Experts Analyze Economic Situation

OW1906114992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1036 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Tashkent, 18 experts of the World Bank began to collect and analyze information about the current state of Uzbekistan's economy. During the next two weeks they will also get acquainted with this republic's legislation from the point of view of transition to market relations. The delegation is expected to produce a memorandum for the council of the Word Bank's executive directors, on the basis of which recommendations will be given on Uzbekistan's economic development and on the possibility of extending loans to it.

Austrian Business Delegation Visits Tashkent

LD1606201292 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0145 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Summary] A business delegation from Austria is visiting Tashkent. The delegation consists of representatives from 37 firms, parlimentarians, and bankers.

Armenia

Further on President's French Talks, Visit

NC1806190392 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan returned to Yerevan from Paris on the night of 17-18 June.

Before his return to Armenia, he met with French President Francois Mitterrand for one hour during which time Ter-Petrosyan recounted the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The president said that the reason for the Russian Army's participation in military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh could be either due to the anarchy currently reigning in the Russian Army, which enables Azerbaijan to make use of mercenaries; or because certain political circles in Moscow want the forces involved.

The president also expressed his views on the objectives behind the attack, noting that the offensive is being carried out to hinder the CSCE's efforts to stabilize the situation. Azerbaijan, he said, knows that the conference will adopt a resolution guaranteeing security and normal living conditions for the people in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ter-Petrosyan noted that by its support of Azerbaijan, Turkey is contributing to the regional developments, and he asked Mitterrand to pressure Turkey politically.

At the meeting's conclusion, Ter-Petrosyan asked President Mitterrand to mediate to secure the dispatch of UN peacekeeping troops and observers to the conflict zone.

The respective foreign ministers were also present at the meeting.

After meeting with President Mitterrand, the Armenian president held an hour-long news conference and again discussed the current situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Further on Talks

LD1806131792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1041 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris June 18 TASS—Armenian President Levon Ter- Petrosyan met with French President Francois Mitterand on Wednesday [17 June]. The two presidents urged the world community to find a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis and despatch UN international observers to this region before the peace conference on Nagorno-Karabakh was held in Minsk.

The French president received the request of his Armenian counterpart with understanding, however he said that the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) only can assist in finding a solution to this crisis, a diplomatic aide to the French head of state, Jean Vidal told the FRANCE-PRESS news agency.

But at the same time, Mitterand asked the State Minister and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to analyze the possibility of the UN involvement to find a solution to the Karabakh crisis, Vidal said. During the talks with Mitterand, the Armenian president wanted France to support Armenia's request to the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali regarding the despatch of special UN observers to Nagorno-Karabakh. Ter-Petrosyan thinks that it should be done immediately, before the opening of the Nagorno-Karabakh peace conference on June 23 in Minsk.

After the meeting in the Elysee Palace Ter-Petrosyan told journalists that he "expects Paris to work out an objective position." "France should consider the Nagorno-Karabakh problem in the context of the right to self-determination for nations," the Armenian president said.

'Commissar' Denies Military Call Up Rumors

OW1806150692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia's Commissar Colonel Levon Stepanyan has refuted rumors that reservists are being mobilized to the Armenian Army. In his words, the scheduled 3-month-long training camp for servicemen has been under way in keeping with the ruling issued by the government on June 16th.

Colonel Stepanyan explained the necessity of the action primarily by the extremely tense situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The purpose of the camp is "to enable future homeland defenders to brush up their theoretical knowledge and learn how to handle advanced military equipment", the Commissar said.

Envoy on Azerbaijani Military Offensive

MK1806153092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 1

["Opinion" by Liana Minasyan under general headline: "Nagorno-Karabakh May Become Karabakh Front in Great Armenian-Azerbaijani War"]

[Text] Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent was told by Feliks Mamikonyan, Armenia's ambassador to Russia, that the latest Azerbaijani offensive in Karabakh was due to the military imbalance in the region that arose after Russia effectively transferred two divisions—the 295th and 23d—unimpeded to the Azerbaijani Army. When it signed the collective security treaty Armenia thought that arms should not be handed over to countries that are not members of the CIS (as in the case of the Baltic states).

"Armenia's membership of the CIS," the ambassador said, "has proved ineffective both politically—the genocide of the Armenian population in Karabakh is eliciting no response from the members of the Commonwealth—and economically—as evidenced by the blockade of the gas pipelines and the lack of mechanisms to enable this problem to be resolved. The military structure of the Commonwealth has also proved ineffective now." The ambassador said that Russian servicemen are taking part in the fighting against the Armenian population of Karabakh, something that has been confirmed by the testimonies of Azerbaijani prisoners. It was they who controlled the tanks that attacked Shaumyanovskiy Rayon—this means that troops and people drafted in Russia and serving in the Russian Army are being handed over to Azerbaijan.

The military activity is not abating today, and, moreover, it is increasing in other sectors: Combat hardware has been massed on Armenia's southern borders in Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy Rayon and Nakhichevan's Ordubadskiy Rayon. Armenia is expecting provocations—the bombardment of border villages, which is generally accompanied by accusations regarding the republic's aggressive intentions. There is a real danger that southern areas of Armenia will be captured.

Feliks Mamikonyan believes that the hostilities were deliberately started ahead of the CSCE countries' conference in Rome—Azerbaijan either intends to torpedo the conference or to come to the meeting on a wave of military success.

For the last 18 months, the ambassador said, Armenia has been insistently proposing talks, but the Azerbaijani authorities have undertaken three wide-ranging military operations in this period so as to deport people and thus deprive the peace talks of any practical purpose.

Aide Comments on Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

MK1806140192 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 2

[V.S. report under general headline: "Two Views of Same Conflict"]

[Text] Russia and the other CIS countries have reacted calmly to the latest round of aggression against the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijani troops. That view was expressed by F. Mamikonyan, Armenian permanent representative in Moscow, at a meeting with journalists. He stated that the mechanism for mutual understanding within the Commonwealth has not begun to operate, enabling Azerbaijan to conduct its punitive operations undisturbed. Nor is the collective security treaty working. "All this is bound to cause alarm, given the threat of direct military intervention by Baku," Mamikonyan said. "Come what may, Armenia will continue to try to resolve the Karabakh conflict by political measures."

In the words of Kh. Arutyunyan, member of the Armenian parliament Presidium, who also took part in the news conference, one such measure could be an international peace conference on Nagorno-Karabakh in Minsk within the CSCE framework. But the Azerbaijani side is doing everything it can to prevent such a forum getting under way.

Supreme Soviet Sends Message to Russia

NC1806204392 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Armenian Supreme Soviet Presidium's 16 June Appeal to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium]

[Text] The latest blatant aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] is assuming an even more inhuman and threatening nature.

Shaumyanovskiy Rayon, inhabited exclusively by Armenians, has been displaced in only a few days and military operations have shifted deep into the NKR's Mardakertskiy and Askeranskiy Rayons. Last week alone, hundreds of peaceful residents fell victim to the barbaric invasion.

The Azerbaijani Armed Forces are continuing their provocative actions along the border region, killing and injuring many peaceful residents of Armenia.

The thrust of military operations, the destruction of one Armenian settlement after another, and the forcible deportation of thousands of people clearly demonstrates a consistent policy of moving the Armenians out of Nagorno-Karabakh once and for all.

The offensive is obviously a premeditated Azerbaijani plan to abort the Minsk conference on a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem within CSCE framework.

Azerbaijan is doing all this with the help of the military formations that used to be under the Russian Federation and have been handed over to Azerbaijan.

Being deeply concerned about the fate of bilateral Armenian-Russian relations, we appeal to you to reconsider the legality of handing over the military hardware to Azerbaijan and allowing Russian forces to participate in the fighting. We ask you to immediately restore the military balance between the Transcaucasian republics.

[signed] The Armenian Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium

[dated] 16 June 1992, Yerevan

State of Emergency Imposed in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1806144692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1432 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 18 TASS—The Nagorno-Karabakh authorities introduced a state of emergency in the disputed enclave for one month and announced general mobilisation in an effort to stabilise the situation in the region.

The authorities decided to inform the U.N. secretary-general about the measures.

The Nagorno-Karabakh parliament sanctioned the beginning of a guerrilla war in the region against Azerbaijani armed militants.

Nagorno-Karabakh Appeals to Foreign Governments

NC1806161192 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Government has issued an appeal to foreign governments which says that the Azerbaijani Army, with the active support of the [words indistinct] of the CIS Armed Forces, has recently launched wide-ranging military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh. People in several residential areas in Shaumyanovskiy, Askeranskiy, and Mardakertskiy Rayons have been forced to leave their homes as a result of the attacks. More than 20,000 residents of that republic have become refugees. Although Azerbaijani officials say they want to find a peaceful solution to the Nagorno- Karabakh dispute, they maintain a policy of genocide against the people in Nagorno-Karabakh in plain view of the CIS, foreign countries, and international organizations.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Government asks foreign parliaments, governments, and international organizations to take action to stop Azerbaijani aggression and help the people in Nagorno-Karabakh, particularly the refugees.

Nagorno-Karabakh Sets Up Refugee Commission

LD1906022392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Government has set up a republican commission on refugees, the SNARK news agency reports from Stepanakert. As the result of the massive offensive by the Azerbaijani Army, the government's decision stresses, tens of thousands of peaceful residents were deported from various rayons of Nagorno-Karabakh. Some refugees will be housed in Stepanakert and others will be housed in safe rayons of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Nagorno-Karabakh Wages 'Partisan Operations'

LD1906112292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] A SNARK correspondent was told by Petrosyan, a spokesman for the authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh—and I quote: We will never resign ourselves to the loss of more than 20 Armenian villages in Karabakh—unquote.

Commenting on the statement of the republic's Supreme Soviet on the start of partisan operations in the territory occupied by Azerbaijan in the north of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, Petrosyan said that partisan detachments would use the peculiarities of the landscape for effective combat operations.

Threat to Hydroelectric Station Disapproved

OW1806172192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Nagorno-Karabakh authorities disapprove of the attempt by several Armenian field commanders to blow up the Sarkhan hydroelectric station in the Mardakert region. In a statement issued Thursday [18 June] the press center of the Nagorno-Karabakh Parliament said that if the nuclear hydroelectric station is blown up much of Karabakh and Azerbaijan will be flooded. Tens of thousands would be killed.

A number of field commanders are ready to resort to such drastic measures as blow up the Sarkhan hydroelectric station to avoid its capture and stop the attack by the Azeri army in the Mardakert region, where the Azeris have already occupied most of the villages. Informed sources say the station has already been mined.

Statement Issued To Deny Plans To Blow Up Dam

LD1906130992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1208 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Aleksandr Grigoryan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan May 22 TASS—Armenian Headquarters in Nagorno- Karabakh denied Azerbaijani claims they are going to explode the Sarkhan hydroelectric power station. "There are no units among regular Armenian self-defence detachments which are going to make such an outrageous step," the headquarters said in a statement on Friday [19 June].

The explosion of the dam may lead to flooding the northern part of the Mardakert region of Karabakh and three adjoining regions of Azerbaijan, experts said.

However, the headquarters admitted certain uncontrolled units may be planning the action and called on them to refrain from it.

In the meantime, combat activities do not cease in Nagorno-Karabakh. Dozens of civilians were killed when Azerbaijani forces seized the village of Leninavan on Thursday.

However, Armenian units, using guerrilla tactics, captured a number of important strongholds near the settlements of Levonarkh and Gasangai, as well as along the road leading to Mardakert. The Azerbaijani offensive was stopped there.

Early on Friday Azerbaijani forces shelled the town of Askeran and the village of Kyatuk. Wounded and damage were reported.

Fighting in Mardakertskiy, Other Areas Reported

NC1806183992 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1650 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The ARTSAKH NEWS AGENCY reports that the situation is extremely tense in Mardakertskiy Rayon as Armenian self-defense forces are waging bloody battles on the approaches of Verin-Chaily, Leninavan, Maraga, Lernavank, and Hasangala. Even though the Armenian side repulsed the enemy's persistent attacks and inflicted substantial losses, two Azerbaijani tank convoys, each composed of 20 tanks and 50 armored cars, are moving towards Mardakert from Ter- Terskiy Rayon, by-passing Leninavan and Karmiravan. Despite the fact that the enemy's forces are substantially superior to the Armenian forces, the city defenders are getting ready to confront these convoys.

On the evening of 17 June, the self-defense detachments neutralized all the Azerbaijani firing positions in Alimadatly, Agdamskiy Rayon.

Virtually all the border villages in Martuninskiy Rayon have come under Grad rocket and artillery fire since since last night. One resident was killed and a number of others were injured in Spitakashen.

Further on Clashes

NC1806184592 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1650 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry reported that the situation in Armenia's southern regions was tense last night.

Kapan was hit with tank, artillery, and Grad rocket fire on the night of 16 June from Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy Rayon. One peaceful resident was killed and four others were injured. On the night of 17 June, an Azerbaijani tank group moving out of Kubatlinskiy Rayon tried to attack Kornidzor in Gorisskiy Rayon to occupy the humanitarian corridor linking the region with Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. The attack was repulsed.

An ARMENPRES correspondent reported that the self-defense detachments at Kornidzor managed to take the initiative and control important military positions in the region. The enemy suffered casualties in their retreat. As of 1430 today, the enemy forces at (Mazmazak) region surrounded Armenian self-defense force positions.

The situation was calm today in Khndzoresk, Nerkin-Khndzoresk, and Tekh.

'Serious Defeat' Suffered

LD1906122592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Armenia is suffering a serious defeat in the military operations against Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh. As a result of a big offensive with the use of tanks and aviation, the Azerbaijani Army established full control over the Shaumyan region and over part of the Mardakert region. There are reports about hundreds of killed and thousands of refugees. In order to stop the advancement of the Azerbaijanian army, the retreating Armenian units are prepared to blow up the Sarsang hydropower plant, which would mean flooding two cities and several population centers on the teritory of Azerbaijan.

In Nagorno-Karabakh itself a state of emergency has been imposed and general mobilization announced.

Azerbaijan

State of Emergency Declared in Agdzhabedinskiy

NC1806181992 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Taking into account the threat to citizens by the activities of the illegal armed groups in Agdzhabedinskiy Rayon and in an effort to stop the mass demonstrations, in which acts of violence have been observed, the Azerbaijani president has decreed that a state of emergency be declared in the rayon effective today.

The decree also said the following: The minister of internal affairs, the minister of national security, and the minister of defense are herewith instructed to establish a joint operations headquarters in Dzhebrailskiy Rayon and appoint a commandant for the rayon. A curfew will be in effect from 2200 to 0500. All demonstrations, meetings, marches, and other mass activities are prohibited.

Elchibey Interviewed on Goals, Situation

PM1706142692 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 16 Jun 92 p 6

[Report on interview with Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey by Torgny Hinnemo in Baku; no date given]

[Text] Baku—It is important that a democratic movement grows up in the whole of the Caucasus and it needs support from Europe.

So said Azerbaijan's new president, Abulfaz Elchibey, in an interview with SVENSKA DAGBLADET. The election result was officially confirmed last Saturday, 13 June. Former Communist Party leader Ayaz Mutalibov was forced out of the presidency earlier this year after large-scale demonstrations.

The support from the West does not only need to be material, Elchibey said. As an example he pointed to the fact that the presidential election in Azerbaijan was held under the watchful eye of foreign observers. The acting head of the U.S. mission in Baku is one of those who have praised how the election was carried out.

"This prevents the suspicions of ballot rigging which arise so easily otherwise," Elchibey said.

Such allegations have already been voiced by the election's runner-up, Nizami Suleymanov, a doctor of technology, who won 34 percent of the votes. Elchibey won 59 percent. Suleymanov's main promise was that if he became president he would drive the Armenian forces out of Nagorno-Karabakh in three months. If he failed he would resign.

Our one-hour interview with the new president took place literally at his bedside. The 54-year-old Abulfaz Elchibey has lived in Baku since his twenties, but is still on the waiting list for his own apartment. At present he is living at his brother's apartment in the outskirts of Baku. It was to the broad family bed in his brother's bedroom that we went, to be able to talk undisturbed.

Elchibey is one of the few Azerbaijanis who has been imprisoned for political activities during the Soviet era. This was in the mid-seventies, 10 years after his arrival at the age of 25 in Egypt where he worked as an interpreter for 2 years. As well as speaking his mother tongue, which is close to Turkish, he also speaks Persian, Arabic, and German. He has chiefly worked as a teacher and researcher at the Department of Oriental Studies in Baku.

For the last three years Elchibey has been chairman of the Azerbaijani People's Front.

"In the past people have written of us that we are a pan-Turkic movement or that we are fundamentalists. This is an incorrect view.

"We have the same demands as any other of mankind's modern movements. We want to live like people live in Europe, like people live in Holland, for example. However, we do not want to live as people live in Iraq or Russia.

"We want to develop our country carefully, ideally as people do in Britain. An evolution which flips over into a revolution is no longer an evolution."

Much of the effort which society would need to devote to improving living standards is expended today on the war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Daily we saw weeping crowds taking their dead to the heroes' graves close to the demolished statue of Kirov on a hill outside Baku.

There are already hundreds of gravestones with the date of death 1992 here. The majority of victims are men and and almost all of them 30.

The aim of the People's Front is to boost Azerbaijan's military strength and to seek a solution through diplomatic channels.

Elchibey is unwilling to view all acts of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh as military operations by one side or the other. It happens, for example, that both Azerbaijani and Armenian shepherds are murdered by sheep thieves.

"It is pure barbarianism," he said. But he also thinks that the fundamental approach of the Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh is irreconcilable with that of the Azerbaijanis.

"Ever since they were children they have been brought up to believe that Nagorno-Karabakh will one day be united with Armenia.

"I have told the Armenian leaders time and time again that they are deceiving their people and that they will find that the people will turn against them the day that they discover that they have been taken in.

"The world does not accept a state conquering another state's territory through violence. If, for example, a state of the United States were to make claims against another state this would be seen as treachery."

Elchibey said that the involvement of international organizations like the EC, the United Nations, or the International Union of Jurists could be a stabilizing factor in the negotiations which will have to be held on Nagorno-Karabakh."

He mentioned a thesis of a 19th-century Persian philosopher which he had difficulty understanding during his years of study. If a country builds its future on a lie, it gradually develops a state of mental illness for its people:

"When the Soviet Union fell apart, I understood what he was getting at. The same thing will happen in Armenia in a few years' time. It is an unstable country which is trying to conceal its problems behind the myth of Nagorno-Karabakh."

It is because of this instability that the democratic movement in the whole of the Caucasus region needs the support and the attention of Europe, Elchibey said.

"For that matter, the democratic movement throughout central Asia needs this support."

He pointed to Uzbekistan, for example, which has demanded the extradition of political opposition figures who have fled to other former Soviet republics, including Azerbaijan.

"Democratic developments in the central Asian CIS states would also have a stabilizing effect on Afghanistan and Iran," he said.

However, Nagorno-Karabakh is not the only uncertainty factor in the country over which Abulfaz Elchibey will now preside. On the way into Baku from the airport we were stopped six times by police armed with submachine guns. On one occasion we were ordered to open our baggage to show that we had no weapons with us.

Elchibey's own home province, Nakhichevan, which is ruled today by Geydar Aliyev, who in the seventies and eighties was both head of the Communist Party in Azerbaijan and a member of the Politburo in Moscow. Does anticommunist Elchibey expect the old communist machine to be loyal to Aliyev?

The president sidesteps the question about Aliyev and chooses to give a general answer:

"I am the only one of the presidential candidates to have a movement behind me. Who in the long run can resist such a force?"

According to its leader, the Azerbaijan's People's Front is considerably stronger than the corresponding organizations in the Ukraine and the Baltic states, for example.

"We have a long tradition of freedom movements throughout our history. We have never allowed ourselves to be cowed," he said.

Azerbaijan, a country with a little over 7 million inhabitants, is wrestling with the same economic problems as the rest of the former Soviet Union—declining production and rapid inflation, for example.

"We know that we cannot extricate ourselves from the Soviet economy, immediately and on our own," the president said.

"I see Turkey as our most important bridge to the world, both because Turkey is a modern state and because it is a European and an Asian country at one and the same time. We have also begun increasingly to view Ukraine as a gateway to Europe. We already have wide-ranging economic relations with each other. On the other hand, Russia has no knowledge to give us."

In saying this Elchibey indicated that Azerbaijan does not need the CIS.

What then is the president's view of the role of religion in the development of the country? Azerbaijan has a significant number of practicing Muslims.

"That is a difficult question which the philosophers have been pondering for centuries. Someone said that philosophy is a psychosis which carries development forward and that religion is a cure. Man can find peace in his relationship to God.

"I believe that we need both philosophy and religion, which alternate in carrying developments forward and set the limits for each other's influence," Abulfaz Elchibey said.

Spokesman on Military, Political Developments

TA1806193092 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish
1515 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Deniz Yenal report]

[Text] Baku (AA)—Azerbaijani presidential spokesman Niyazi Ibrahimov has said that Azerbaijan started the latest operation in Nagorno-Karabakh "in order to protect the lives and rights of our people." In a statement to AA, Ibrahimov stressed that Azerbaijan is determined to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem in peaceful ways, and referring to the latest operation, he said: "We taught the Armenians a little lesson."

Ibrahimov stressed that the latest cases of military success in Nagorno-Karabakh are a direct result of the fact that the People's Front came to power. He stated that if the close to 200,000 Azeris who were forced to emigrate from Armenia are allowed to return to their lands and to have cultural autonomy, then Azerbaijan will give cultural autonomy to the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, as well.

The spokesman stressed that the People's Front administration, which began with Isa Kamberov's appointment as Azerbaijan parliament speaker, will not make any radical changes with the election of Abulfaz Elchibey as president. He added that no changes are being considered in the Council of Ministers at this stage.

Ibrahimov said: Even though Prime Minister Rakhim Guseynov was appointed by Ayaz Mutalibov, the ousted president who tried to stage a coup last month to come to power, since the National Assembly approved his appointment, another appointment should not be expected to the post of prime minister, "as long as Abulfaz Elchibey does not decide to propose a new candidate for the post."

Ibrahimov pointed out that the situation in the country is too difficult and complicated for a single political movement to assume power. Therefore, he said, the government must be a coalition. The People's Front accepted that principle a long time ago, he added.

The spokesman stated that Elchibey is ready to cooperate with all political forces in the country. We will use the experience of former Communists as well, he said, "provided they do a good job."

Asked if Niyazi Suleymanov, the runner-up in the 7 June election, is among the political forces with whom Elchibey is willing to cooperate, Ibrahimov charged that Suleymanov "is an adventurer who plays with the feelings of the people," and who has no political platform.

The presidential spokesman said that laws will be enacted to privatize land and economic enterprises with a view to implementing economic reforms. For Azerbaijan to be able to circulate its own monetary unit, he said, economic stability must be achieved first.

Ibrahimov stated that the Azerbaijani Constitution, which was adopted during the communist regime, is not sufficient today, that radical changes will be made in the Constitution, and that laws will be enacted to redefine the powers of the government.

Ibrahimov also said that they will hold parliamentary elections as soon as possible, but he could not say anything about a definite date.

Deputy Prime Minister Discusses Objectives

NC1806162492 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Speaking at a news conference today at the Azerbaijani mission in Moscow, Deputy Prime Minister Khikmet Gadzhizade disclosed the republic's new defense and foreign policy courses. The outcome of the 7 June presidential elections in Azerbaijan, he said, indicates that the republic's democratic forces have achieved a convincing victory. These forces are trying to fulfill their responsibilities in strengthening the nation's unity.

Gadzhizade devoted most of his opening speech to the situation in the disputed areas between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The dispute, he said, deteriorated further as a result of Armenian's (?malicious) intentions. The inauspicious Karabakh problem, which Yerevan has imposed on Azerbaijan, has seriously disrupted the implementation of economic reforms in the republic, he added.

Referring to Azerbaijan's place in the CIS, Gadzhizade said that the republic's leaders are trying to improve mutual relations and cooperation with the former Soviet republics. He stressed in particular that restoring and deepening the multifaceted relations Azerbaijan had with Russia in the political, economic, and military fields remains an important Azerbaijani objective.

Gadzhizade said that Azerbaijani officials will maintain relations with Russian representatives at various levels, adding that several documents on mutual cooperation and matters related to humanitarian problems are currently being drawn up.

Replying to a journalist's questions, Gadzhizade said that combat operations carried out by Azerbaijani Armed Forces are aimed at destroying Armenia's firing positions and military units in the mountainous region in Karabakh and Gorenboyskiy Rayon. Azerbaijan has been forced to (?take action) as a result of the Armenian side's disruptive stand in [words indistinct]. Retaking residential areas and returning the situation to normal is one of the main tasks of the new leaders in the republic. [passage indistinct]

Further on Remarks

LD1806174692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1246 GMT 18 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Baku—A velvet revolution in fact took place in Azerbaijan, the republic's new ambassador to Moscow, Khikmet Gadzhizade, believes.

Opening a press conference held at the Azerbaijan Embassy in Moscow on June 17, the ambassador further stated that with the advent to power of the new president, the republic would change its political course and a liberal reform administration would be formed. The multi-ethnic composition of Azerbaijan, Khikmet Gadzhizade stressed, is a great asset and a pledge of stability in the republic. The possibility of introducing double citizenship in particular for the citizens of Russia and Israel, is under consideration. The ambassador stated that the war was ruining the country and preventing the solution of domestic problems. According to him, the new republican administration supported the UN and CSCE in settling the conflict on the principle of the inviolability of borders, on which peace in Europe is based. Khikmet Gadzhizade added that the Armenians of Karabakh would be able to preserve their national character in Azerbaijan they would be given an opportunity to support Armenian culture, to open theatres, schools, etc. As to administrative autonomy it will be granted to them only in the event that Azeris deported from Armenia receive the same autonomy. According to the ambassador, the Armenian side is waging another propaganda war against Azerbaijan. There is no new spiral of tension in the region. Azeri troops are not engaged in hostilities in Karabakh, whereas Armenian troops have spread their activities to the territory of Azerbaijan—they have captured Lachin, and are attacking Kazakh and Akstafa, Khikmet Gadzhizade stated.

The Azerbaijani president's aide for public relations, Niyazi Ibrahimov, stated at the press conference that the rumours spread by Armenia on the breakthrough of the Megrin corridor through the territory of Armenia were false. Such a breakthrough would connect Azerbaijan with the Nakhichevan Republic. Also false, according to him, are the reports about foreign mercenaries—including Russians—in the Azerbaijan Army. We have no Turks or Iranians in our Army, Ibrahimov stated. People of various ethnic groups—Russians, Ukrainians, Lezgin, Kurds, serve but they are all citizens of Azerbaijan who have voluntarily joined the Armed Forces, yet the Armenian Army is engaged in hostilities in Ter-Tersk and Kazakh Districts of Azerbaijan, the flow of refugees is growing and this threatens to destabilize the situation. 150,000 of them have gathered in Baku alone. Ibrahimov confirmed that the villages of Shaumyan District had lately been re-captured from the Armenian forces. He further stated that Azerbaijan intended to sign the Geneva agreements on the conduct of war.

According to Khikmet Gadzhizade, Azerbaijan will attend the Minsk CSCE conference. Replying to a question from journalists, the ambassador pointed out that the humanitarian corridor between Armenia and Karabakh could be preserved under the condition that a similar corridor be created between Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan. In answer to the question of how the leaders of Azerbaijan interpret the principle of self-determination of nations, which is no less important for the CSCE than the principle of inviolability of borders, Khikmet Gadzhizade replied that he had in mind the right of Armenians not to assimilate but to go on considering themselves Armenians.

Foreign Minister Speaks at ICO Meeting

NC1806190592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry has informed AZERINFORM that Foreign Minister Tofik Kasumov has addressed the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] meeting in Istanbul, explaining Azerbaijan's stand on current world problems and briefing the delegations on the situation in our republic, which is moving towards democracy.

Kasumov stressed that the main obstacle preventing Azerbaijan from moving further toward democracy is the dispute in which it has been dragged, a dispute which Armenia has used as an excuse for aggression. Kasumov appealed to the influential organization and to its individual members to use their influence to halt Armenia's aggression and force the armed Armenian units to withdraw from Azerbaijani territory. Kasumov also called for international sanctions against Armenia.

The Azerbaijan delegation has held talks with several delegations attending the ICO meeting.

Comments on Armenian Actions

NC1906120392 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] In a statement to the Turkish Radio and Television Network, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Kasumov, who is in Turkey to attend the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers' meeting in Istanbul, has said that the meeting in Rome on preparing for the Minsk conference on the Karabakh dispute has entered an impasse due to Armenian obstructions. Recalling that the Armenians refrained from attending the Rome meeting on the pretext that Azerbaijan was attacking the Armenians in Karabakh, Kasumov said that the excuse they put forward indicated that they maintain a prejudicial approach on the talks. He also noted that Armenia was the aggressor. Kasumov asserted that Azerbaijan prefers to have the problems resolved through peaceful initiatives, not war, and wishes to attend the Rome talks on the Minsk conference. He added that Azerbaijan is moving in that direction. Kasumov said:

[Begin Kasumov recording] Azerbaijan is moving on from this point at this stage. The Azerbaijani side is trying to attend all the meetings without creating obstacles. But there is a point to be considered. The main condition for Azerbaijan's participation in the Minsk conference is the removal of the repercussions of the Armenian and Azerbaijani attacks [Ermeni-Azerbaycan tecavuzu] by the time the conference convenes. In fact, we discussed this matter with James Baker. This is due to the fact that the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute and the question of the Armenian and Azerbaijani refugees must be discussed in Minsk. We cannot take up these problems during the Minsk conference if the repercussions of the Armenian aggression are not removed. We will take part in the Minsk conference so that the question of the occupied territories in Azerbaijan may be debated. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Sends Note to Russian Ministry

OW1806135692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 18 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature based on reports by "diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev et al"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan has sent a note to the Russian Foreign Ministry saying that "Armenia has not been denounced by the international community as an aggressor yet, despite the seizure of Azeri lands". This is viewed as "an encouragement of Armenia's policy of aggression".

The note emphasizes that "further connivance and the policy of speechlessness with regard to Armenia will be tantamount to the death of Azerbaijan as a state".

Earlier the Armenian Foreign Ministry lashed out at Azerbaijan. Analysts believe that the escalation of tension in and around Nagorno-Karabakh can lead to an open collision between Armenia and Azerbaijan and foil the efforts of the international community in the framework of the UN and the CSCE to settle the conflict by political means.

Minister: Cease-Fire Proposals 'Not Convincing'

TA1706163592 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 1530 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] As the operation undertaken last week by the Azerbaijani forces to silence the Armenian positions continues, it has been announced that the Armenian and Azerbaijani defense ministers held a meeting today.

Azerbaijani Interior Minister Iskander Gamidov has said that Armenian proposals for a cease-fire beginning today were not convincing.

A statement by the office of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry spokesman says that a large Armenian counter-offensive to recover their villages of Nakhichevanik, Pirdzhamal, and (Abdalgul) has been repelled. It added that the Azerbaijani forces have entered the villages of Talish and Chaily in the region of Terter.

It is reported that the Armenians are concentrating heavy rocket-fire on the city of Agdam.

Fighting is continuing on the second front opened at the south of Nagorno-Karabakh between the Azeri forces which are trying to advance toward Lachin and the Armenians.

Speaking during a news conference in Baku, Gamidov said that Azerbaijani Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev and Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan met in Azerbaijan's Kazakh region for talks. Gamidov added that Gaziyev proposed a series of concrete proposals to put an end to the fighting but did not elaborate. Gamidov concluded by saying that the temporary cease-fire proposals the Armenians made yesterday were not considered convincing.

Albanians, Kurds Urge Holy War Against Armenia

OW1806155492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kurdish and Albanian communities in Nagorno- Karabakh urge their compatriots living in the Caucasus to rise in a holy war against Armenia's aggression. The Kurdish Cultural Centre quotes an appeal from the two communities as pointing out that the bulk of Kurdish and Albanian lands is situated in the Zangezur region on the territory of Armenia.

Continued Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh Reported

NC1806183592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] A meeting was to have been held between the defense ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia in the state [word indistinct] post between Azerbaijan's Kazakhskiy and Armenia's Idzhevanskiy Rayons on 17 June. The meeting, however, was not held, and we can blame the Armenian side.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Press Center told an AZERINFORM correspondent that the Armenian defense minister failed to show up for the meeting for reasons currently unknown. Plans were made to hold talks on a possible cease-fire on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border and in other disputed areas. Several residential areas in Azerbaijan were hit with Armenian fire last night. The fire was returned and the border was relatively calm before dawn.

Armed Armenian units hit Fizuli with Grad rockets and artillery fire, injuring several residents and damaging the city. Azerbaijani Armed Forces units silenced the enemy firing positions and destroyed the Grad launchers. Initial reports indicate that the enemy sustained casualties in the attack.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has disclosed that the Azerbaijani Armed Forces silenced firing positions manned by armed Armenians in four more towns in the mountainous region in Karabakh by noon today, evicting the aggressors from the towns.

Mardakert Villages Retaken

LD1806135292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] ASSA-IRADA agency reports that on the night of 17-18 June, the Azerbaijani National Army liberated another seven villages of Mardakert Rayon in the mountain area of Karabakh. They are the villages of Ashagy-Chayly, Yukhary-Chaily, Gesengaya, Margushevan, Maraga, Leninavan, and Talish. There are casualties on both sides.

Authorities Concerned Over Threatened Dam

LD1906120292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1018 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By AZERINFORM—TASS]

[Text] Baku June 19 TASS—The authorities of Azerbaijan are concerned over the intention of Armenian armed units to explode a 130-metre high dam of the Sarkhan water reserve in Nagorno-Karabakh where 565 million cubic metres of water are kept. The consequences of such an action can be catastrophic for both the Azeris and Armenians of Karabakh and the adjoining regions. Unrepairable damage can be caused to the ecology of Transcaucasia, experts warned.

The situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border remains tense. The Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry said Armenian forces were shelling villages in Nakhichevan overnight and stopped the fire only after Azeri forces responded.

Armenians continue to send reinforcements to Nagorno-Karabakh through the Lachin corridor connecting the enclave with Armenia. Azerbaijani forces refrain from shelling the road as cars with civilians also go along it. The Defence Ministry believes the civilians are used as a "live shield" for the military.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Meets Chechen Foreign Minister

LD1806162992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, June 18 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, met with Chechen Foreign Minister Shamil Beno who arrived on a brief visit to Tbilisi from Groznyy.

Their conversation was held behind closed doors and was reportedly devoted to the possibility of developing good neighborly relations between Georgia and Checheniya.

S. Ossetian Official Cited on Current Situation

LD1906001692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Jun 92

[A. Peslyak report from Moscow; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Alan Chochiev, deputy chairman of the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet, briefed journalists today on the dramatic situation in the republic as a result of the intensification of combat operations on the Georgian side. According to him, Shevardnadze's coming to power has not stood in the way of those who wished to continue slaughter:

[Begin Chochiev recording in progress] ...has resigned himself to the fact that he is, well, some window-dressing—democratic window-dressing of genocide. [end recording]

At the same time the Russian leadership, except for the statement by Khasbulatov, is not agreeing to constructive steps. It intends, according to Chochiev, to establish iron rule in North Ossetia, giving South Ossetia to Georgia. Neither contacts with the anti-Zviadists nor the mediation of the Russian military are leading to peace, even though there are some peace proposals like the parliament memorandum. Chochiev predicts an explosion throughout Ossetia unless an alternative to Islamic attraction emerges or South Ossetia becomes independent.

Heavy Bombardment Leaves 1 Dead, 22 Wounded

LD1906100292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0753 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, June 19 TASS—One person was killed and 22 wounded in a massive shelling of Tskhinvali by Georgian militants last night, according to preliminary reports. The North Ossetian Security Ministry said grenade-launchers, mortars and machine guns were used in the shelling.

The village of Znaur also came under fire, but no casualty reports were available as there is no telephone communication with the settlement.

A group of Russian, North and South Ossetian observers begin to work near Tskhinvali, on the territory of the withdrawn helicopter wing. Georgian observers did not join them as they failed to get through to the city, TASS learned from reliable sources.

The situation in North Ossetia is back to normal due to the state of emergency introduced in five regions of the republic, according to Yuriy Biragov, North Ossetian first deputy parliamentary speaker. The state of emergency was introduced after some South Ossetian refugees attacked local military installations and seized arms there.

Guardsman Killed in CIS Helicopter Attack

AU1906093992 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] As we were informed by the Gori headquarters of the Georgian internal affairs administration, on 18 June, an Ossetian armed formation supported by three helicopters [word indistinct] from the helicopter regiment's territory in Tskhinvali, attacked a guard post on the Gori-Tskhinvali border that was being defended by the Georgian National Guard. The helicopters fired eight unguided missiles as a result of which two guardsmen were wounded and one was killed. The helicopters returned to their base following a categorical demand from representatives of the Georgian National Guard in which it was stated that, if they did not return, they would open fire on the territory of the helicopter regiment. Lieutenant Colonel (?Boyanov), a representative of the Transcaucasian Military District, stated that the post was attacked on the orders of the deputy defense minister of the Russian Federation, who was on the spot. As (?Boyanov) said, the deputy minister issued this order after his helicopter had been fired upon.

Further on Attacked Tank Regiment in Gori

OW1806172792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Up to 200 men took part in the June 13 attack on the CIS tank regiment in Gori, the regimental chief of staff, Colonel Anufriyev has told a news conference at the Trans-Caucasia military district headquarters. He said the attackers tried to seal off officers in the residential area and to keep them away from the military facilities. There was a fire exchange. In order to beat back the attack three tanks had to leave the premises. Twenty eight national guards were taken prisoner.

The chief of staff says that the attack was a preplanned action: one of the prisoners carried a detailed plan of the garrison. Anufriyev said that on the Georgian side the operation was led by deputy national guard commander Colonel Bersik Kutateladze, who was seriously injured and is in a Gori hospital in critical condition.

The district's deputy commander Lieutenant-General Sufiyan Beppaev has described the appearance of tanks in the city as an unlawful act. He said that the redeployment of the regiment from Gori to another district is considered. Beppaev has said that the troops of the district have received strict orders to stay away from combat operations in the region, including those in Nagorno- Karabakh, on either side. He dismissed reports that the Ikans-Caucasia military district was supplying warring factions in Trans-Caucasia with military hardware.

Helicopter Crash in S. Ossetia Caused by Fog

OW1906122792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1037 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The crash of a military transportation helicopter in Roksky pass in South Ossetia on June 17 was caused by fog, a commission for investigating the cause of the accident assert. The crew and the passengers died. On Thursday [18 June], the bodies of the 11 victims were moved to Vladikavkaz. It was revealed that on board the helicopter there were 8 servicemen, including the crew members, an instructor of the North Ossetian Self-Defence Staff and 2 physicians of the Tskhinvali hospital. Vladikavkaz reports that last night Tskhinvali was shelled from large-caliber sub-machine-guns, artillery pieces and mortars. One man was killed and 22 people were wounded. The Georgian guards burnt two Ossetian villages—Kokhat and Sarabuk, the same sources report.

Ioseliani Pledges 'War' on 'Fascism'

MK1806110092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jun 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with D. Ioseliani, deputy chairman of Georgian State Council, by Aleksandr Gagua under the "Self-Portrait" rubric; place and date not given: "Dzhaba Ioseliani: 'Fascism Has No Nationality.' Deputy Chairman of Georgian State Council Answers NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's Questions"]

[Text] [Gagua] Could you tell us whether five years ago you could have imagined the current situation in Georgia and yourself in your present role?

[Ioseliani] I spoke about this at the time. Four years ago I organized "Mkhedrioni" precisely because I sensed... When an empire collapses, anarchy is bound to set in, especially as communism is the kind of force that cannot be curbed without inertia. History has shown that communism is not only bad in that it is communism. It also gives rise to fascism. You do not have to be particularly clever to realize that a force is needed that is capable of acting as a regulator. At the time no one thought of this. I may not have thought that I would be right at the hub of things, but I did know that I would play a major role... Subsequently all parties began to arm themselves against the incumbent party. But parties should not arm themselves. I opposed this because a party that arms itself is the mafia.

[Gagua] So you set up "Mkhedrioni" as an autonomous armed force and not as a party?

[Ioseliani] What party! Quite the reverse! "Mkhedrioni" had to perform a... semipolice function to maintain the balance between the parties. Because I saw how fiercely they were fighting at the time. As soon as the Communist Party had retired, the future... on our territory... seemed... I said then that if there were no unified military force, we would turn into another Lebanon. Georgia would be Lebanized. But this went in one ear and out the other.

We assumed the role of intermediary. A strong-arm intermediary, of course, otherwise they will not take you into account. When Gamsakhurdia sensed this, he immediately began persecuting various young party members: He said, he wants to become a Pinochet and kill you... But that was not how things worked out. I did not become a Pinochet, I did not kill anyone, and it was he who became the dictator, just as I had predicted.

[Gagua] Were you not close to him at one time?

[Ioseliani] This happened very briefly in 1976-1977 when he was publishing the journal KHRONIKA. I collaborated with him then. Before his arrest I even took him under my wing because I felt that he was a coward, so I tried to cheer him up. But, as it turned out, this bore no fruit. A man is what he is. As soon as he went to jail, he did what I was afraid of within two months. You probably remember his shameful television statement. After that I did not give him the time of day. Everything ended then. I told all these party members that he should not be let loose, because he was not suited to such a pure cause. But they did not understand and said: "Oh, really." The young people did not understand that the most disgraceful thing that you can possibly do is to waive your convictions. You can do this voluntarily. But through fear?.. We met later at some party rallies. He tried to enter into contact with me, he sought "sweet" relations with me, he sent me his friends and intermediaries so that we could make up. But I said: "I have not quarreled with you. What have I got to quarrel with you about? You are just a ne'er-do-well, that is all."

[Gagua] Journalists are always drawing attention to your unusual career: First, you spent time in jail, then you wrote a thesis, and then you became a leader of the national movement. Tell us, what was behind these changes in your life?

[Ioseliani] That is a very difficult question. It is easiest to talk in stereotypes and say: I did this and then I realized... But that is not at all what happened. Not at all. I am the same person that I have always been. It was a political protest from the very outset (I was 15 or 16 years old). Many people in Russia know me, in all the camps and jails... They all know what my life was like there. Whereas some people spent one day in the punishment cell, I spent 100. Just for ordinary things. For instance, you cannot stand by the window in a closed jail. When I walked up to the window, a supervisor would immediately yell "Get away from there!" and would swear. My response was to take my shoe and hit him over the head. So I was dragged off to the punishment cell. There was another guy who was my friend. He was good, I do not condemn him for... He would say: Okay, boss... And everything would end there. He would not spend time in the punishment cell. While I would spend 15 days there. Or even 20... (Pauses) Do you understand why I have told you this?

When I was released for the last time, in 1985, I was 39 years old. I had already seen by then that something could be done. Theses were useless to me. But I knew that the first step I took would have the Communists saying: "He's got a criminal record!.." Whereas I wanted to be able to respond: I am a professor, a doctor... The irony is that I was criticized by a man who himself... (laughs).

It is kind of awkward to speak of this now... Someone may think that this is a kind of apologia, a kind of rationalization of my past life. But if this interview were not for publication, if it were a tete-a-tete... 40 years ago I would have said the same thing. But now things are unpredictable, so it is better not to say it.

[Gagua] I remember you saying something like this in one of your interviews: Gamsakhurdia is insincere when he says in public that he is making angry inquiries as to where I get weapons from. He is well aware of this. There was a time after all when we took weapons from the same source.

[Ioseliani] (Laughter) I can even give you this man's name now. He was code-named Tuglia. At the time, under the Communist authorities, he could have been arrested. I could not give his name then. I did not want him arrested...

There was even a time when Gamsakhurdia took two assault rifles earmarked for me from him. He got there ahead of me, so to speak.

[Gagua] The last twist in your life is that you have ended up in the same "team" as Shevardnadze, who was Georgian internal affairs minister when you were in jail.

[Ioseliani] I do not know—and Eduard Amvrosiyevich certainly does not want to talk about it—but I think that he... I often thought—and I had plenty of time for reflection—about how to destroy communism and how to wipe out this empire. You know, when you are in jail and nothing comes to mind, you cannot see any way out, you feel like hanging or shooting yourself! Even though you will not make a hole in the wall, you feel like beating your head against it! Then it occurred to me that these things can only be done from within and from above. You just have to infiltrate! But how? Regrettably, I could not do that. But he proved to be the right kind of man.

[Gagua] Does Shevardnadze agree with you on that?

[Ioseliani] I have not talked to him about it. But this is a fact. Even when Shevardnadze was Central Committee secretary, he was engaged in destruction! At the time he simply could not do it because he lacked the political and economic levers. But he was shaking things up! I remember how he started. When he was minister of internal affairs, when he was elected secretary. He tried to do everything honestly. Then he saw that was impossible. Somewhere along the line he may have thought that he could develop communism in one country. (Laughter)... Needless to say, I do not know that, that is just what I think. Then, I think, he realized that communism is a bluff. But it is a fact that he accepted democratization since he had always been involved in this! That is why we are united on this although we came to it by different routes. Perhaps unconsciously?..

[Gagua] When I met with Eduard Amvrosiyevich shortly before his return to Georgia (the interview was published in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA No 4, 9 January 1992) he let drop the fact that you are old friends.

[Ioseliani] I was speaking about our philosophical relations. But our friendship goes back a long way. In 1966 when he was internal affairs minister, I received an invitation from America. I had only just been released at the time, so who would have let me go? But I nonetheless decided to try my luck. He knew about me—that was part of his job. I heard that he sympathized with me. So we met.

He told me: I will try, I can tell you that they will not let you go but I will try awfully hard. This reinforced my opinion that he is a man of his word. I was indeed refused permission to go. And the captain who handed me the documents—I remember there was a long line waiting: Jews were leaving—ignored the line for me and blushed, which is a very rare thing for them, and said: You know, you have been refused but Eduard Amvrosiyevich came here three times personally on your behalf. That has never happened before.

[Gagua] When you and Shevardnadze were conducting talks in Ossetia, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA told the following story: During the talks bombardment began and you telephoned asking for it to stop and for order to be restored, and yelled the following: "Otherwise I will come and shoot you myself." Would you really have done that? Or was this just emotion?

[Ioseliani] What emotion? I could have fired. They were going against military orders, firing on Shevardnadze and myself—that is a personal matter. Third, they were firing on Georgia. We do after all want to settle everything peacefully! This is the real enemy of Georgia, myself personally, and all humanity. Why should I not shoot? I was brought a cable from Ossetia, from veterans. I will read it out to you now. "Esteemed Dzhaba Ioseliani, member of the Georgian State Council! Recently in an interview with Georgian TV you said: 'We will go to the Ossetian people and talk to them. But if Tskhinvali is stubborn, we will use force. There will be a real war rather than what we have had so far. There will be one final attack!' These words of yours aroused anger and indignation in all our veterans and the entire Ossetian people. Not only because they concern our honor, dignity, and pride, but also because they flagrantly run counter to reason and the spirit of the time, when mankind is making untiring efforts to settle all sociopolitical problems peacefully. You overtly advocate war against the Ossetian people. In this connection we want to tell you the following:

"One. Mr. Dzhaba, you are trying to intimidate us with threats, forgetting that Ossetians are not a timid, fearful people and that by your threats you can only strengthen and increase our resolve and courage.

"Two. Mr. Dzhaba, you are issuing the Ossetian people with a most rigorous ultimatum, forgetting that this is a repudiation of peaceful, equal, civilized talks and you are thus assuming full responsibility for the failure and disruption of these talks.

"Three. We veterans, with the wisdom gained from great life experience, refuse to believe that these horrendous anti-Ossetian statements were made by you, a professor who joined the deadly battle with Gamsakhurdia's criminal clique, which fostered ferocious hatred of our people and organized the most brutal discrimination and genocide aagainst it.

"Four. Mr. Dzhaba, you are advocating extreme brutality, forgetting that you bear the lofty academic rank of professor, which requires you to be a humane, virtuous, and democratic man. Your eminent state post obliges you to be supremely reasonable and cautious in your intentions and statements. It is obvious that you are ignoring this, which poses an extremely serious danger to the lives and friendship of our peoples.

"Five. We Ossetians viewed you in an extremely amicable way for your previous stance on resolving the ethnic crisis peacefully. Nor have we forgotten your sensitive attitude to our leader Torez Kulumbegov. But it is obvious that you have drastically betrayed yourself and are ready to organize a bloody campaign against our people, so we are obliged to say all these things about your extremely bellicose, aggressive intentions. We would like to give you the following advice as fellow mountain people: Do as you would be done by."

I gave them a terse response: "In response to your letter I want to assure you that the Georgian State Council is doing everything it can to put an end to the senseless bloodshed between our two fraternal peoples. As for my statement regarding the use of force and the declaration of a real war, I would like to point out the following. Once we have made use of all peaceful means to settle the conflict, we will be compelled to use force and declare war, not on the peaceful Ossetian people, with whom we have no quarrel, but on fascism in all its forms, on both sides. Since fascism has no nationality. You can see the truth of these words if you remember what happened to 'Mkhedrioni' when it was in what was South Ossetia in 1989-1990 and also when we joined battle with Gamsakhurdia's criminal clique, the bitter fruits of whose rule both peoples are now reaping. Today there is not a single 'Mkhedrioni' man left in the Georgian villages around Tskhinvali. Certainly, you will agree with me that war is a terrible word. But, regrettably, it is a ruthless war against fascism that will betoken that we are building a truly democratic state in which Georgians and Ossetians should live and work as equals. I would like to believe that you now have the correct idea as to my intentions. With respect, Ioseliani." That is my stance.

Government Creates Hard-Currency Fund

AU1906072992 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 16 May 92 p 2

[Resolution of the Republic of Georgia on the Provisional Rules for the Formation of a Hard-Currency Fund in the Republic of Georgia; place and date not given]

[Text] In order to guarantee the servicing of the state's foreign debt, the purchase of essential goods, and the creation of centralized state funds, the Republic of Georgia Government resolves:

1. To establish a standard deduction from the convertible hard currency revenues [amonagebi] received by enterprises (irrespective of their form of ownership), associations, organizations, and citizens (in future "enterprises") from the sale of goods (works, services), scientific and art works and exhibits, and industrial property and also by collectives of sportsmen and cultural workers or individuals from staging events and performances. This deduction is to be set at 14 percent and will be paid into the Republic of Georgia Hard-Currency Fund.

Those enterprises that receive their income entirely in convertible hard currency are to pay taxes into the Republic of Georgia Hard-Currency Fund at rates fixed in accordance with tax legislation.

2. The hard-currency fund of local organs of administration is to receive 2 percent of the standard deductions of hard-currency revenues paid into the Republic of Georgia Hard-Currency Fund. The aforementioned percentage will be distributed to organs of local administration existing on the territory of the autonomous republics in accordance with the views of the autonomous republics' governments.

3. In order to exclude the imposition of a double tax on enterprises, the sums transferred to hard-currency funds will be accepted in the budget tax account from the profits of enterprises at an exchange rate fixed by the National Bank.

4. Following their inclusion into the Republic of Georgia State Hard-Currency Fund, the remaining hard currency will be used in order to form hard currency funds for enterprises. Hard currency funds for enterprises may be used to conduct import transactions, guarantee the labor of the work force at an enterprise, purchase rubles at the market rate of exchange, and for other purposes that are not forbidden by current legislation.

5. The Republic of Georgia National Bank is to fix a special and market exchange rate or a single one for the ruble vis-a-vis foreign currency and this is to be published weekly in the press.

6. To allow foreign juridical persons with whose participation enterprises have been created on the territory of the republic to open ruble accounts in any banks with the right to conduct operations in the Republic of Georgia.

7. The foreign-currency revenues made from the sale of goods (works, services) must be entered in the hard-currency accounts of enterprises at those banks (in future "empowered banks") operating on the territory of the Republic of Georgia that have received permission (a license) from the National Bank to conduct hard-currency operations.

In the event that the rule on the entering of hard-currency revenue is broken, the enterprise will receive a fine amounting to the total sum of the hidden profits that will be put into the republic's State Hard-Currency Fund.

Juridical persons who, at the time of the adoption of this resolution, have foreign assets in foreign accounts are obliged to transfer them to accounts at empowered banks operating on the territory of the republic within one month of publication of the resolution. Assets that are not entered in accounts in empowered banks within the stated time period will be declared as belonging to the Republic of Georgia and will be put into the republic's State Hard-Currency Fund.

Juridical persons are allowed to open accounts abroad only on the basis of permission received from the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Finances and the Republic of Georgia National Bank.

8. Enterprises exporting goods (works, services) are obliged to indicate in the customs declaration details and the full name of the empowered bank through which settlements have been made with the foreign partner and also the date of receipt of the foreign revenue. Together with the customs declaration, export enterprises are obliged to present to the customs organs permission from the empowered bank in the customs declaration.

The customs organs are to regularly (once a month) present to the aforementioned empowered banks and the Republic of Georgia National Bank a register of customs declarations on whose basis freight has been allowed to be exported abroad.

In the event of tax documents not being presented to the bank or of its not receiving hard-currency revenues within the stipulated time period, empowered banks will report this to the republic's State Tax Inspectorate so that it can check on the export enterprise and also to the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Finance.

9. To establish that if enterprises and banking and other financial organs violate this resolution and also the regulations stipulated in the normative documents of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Finance and the Republic of Georgia National Bank, the control organs can take the following measures against them in accordance with the established rules:

—solicit the Republic of Georgia National Bank to confiscate the permit of empowered banks enabling them to conduct hard-currency operations;

—oblige them without question to pay their debts to the appropriate hard-currency funds and, in the event of their not having the corresponding hard-currency assets, oblige them to pay the equivalent amount in rubles according to the exchange rate fixed by the National Bank;

—oblige them to pay a fine equivalent to twice the amount of the hidden sum.

10. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Finance is to include the assets that have come into the republic's State Hard-Currency Fund as a source for forming the income part of the state budget and use them for financing budget expenditure.

[Signed] T. Sigua, acting chairman of the Government and acting prime minister of the Republic of Georgia

K. Gelashvili, acting first deputy manager of the State Office of the Government of the Republic of Georgia

Estonia

Vahi Address on Start of Monetary Reform

LD1906110992 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Statement bv Prime Minister Tiit Vahi from the government and the monetary reform committee; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed people of Estonia! Within the past five years Estonian social development has been carried by one idea: to be independent and to decide for ourselves. We achieved this aim in August last year when the Republic of Estonia was restored. Having made this decision we took on an obligation to be citizens of a state which is independent and decides for itself, and where our supreme aim is to fill our state's restored independence with fruitful labor. As long as we have been advancing toward the restoration of our freedom we have also been discussing what the Estonian economic model and monetary system should be. We have firmly decided that the Estonian kroon will be the Estonian currency.

The Republic of Estonia's monetary reform committee has decided that starting from 20 June 1992 the Estonian kroon will be valid on the territory of the Republic of Estonia as the only legal tender. It is difficult to overestimate the political and economic significance of this step. Introducing our own currency will serve as a logical continuation to the Estonian fight for freedom. Taking this step we will decisively extract ourselves from the ruble zone. This is like organizing blood circulation within our economy, only it is currency circulation. We are doing this with our own hands and as the first of the states that once belonged to the USSR.

The implementation of the monetary reform is to end the hitherto ambiguous situation within the economy where an ordinary individual could no longer find his way amid the forever increasing prices for goods and services, where saving became pointless, where uncertainty before tomorrow deprived producers of any desire to invest in anything. With the introduction of our own currency we have chosen the path which, as befits our convictions, must ensure that the Estonian kroon will not become worthless paper within a short period of time.

Monetary reform is not friendly to either the producer or the consumer. We made our choice with a heavy heart, with the knowledge that the decision will not meet the expectations of many people; but the decision was made first and foremost in the name of tomorrow. All people included on the currency exchange lists will be able to exchange up to 1,500 rubles for Estonian kroons this coming Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, from 0900 to 2200, at money exchange centers. Savings and bank accounts will also be recalculated into kroons.

The Estonian kroon will be introduced fully guaranteed by the Estonian Bank's gold and convertible foreign hard currency reserves. In this connection strict measures have been planned to fight inflation. I would like to name only the most essential. The most crucial will be the balancing of the state budget, or more broadly, the state's income and expenses. During the past few decades we have become used to spending without sparing a thought to costs. Participating in the world economy as an independent state requires that we carefully weigh all income and expenditure. In order to guarantee the financing of all the expenditure necessary for the state, the government, in conjunction with the monetary reform committee, has decided to increase sales tax to 18 percent, to establish 35 percent as the uniform rate for enterprises' income tax, as well as increase the private individual's income tax to 50 percent on salaries exceeding the minimum wage by tenfold. Resolutions to this end will be published.

During the first month after the monetary reform it is envisaged to restrict the uncontrolled nature of wages [words indistinct]. We give you our assurances that after a month the government, together with the employers' and employees' organizations, will return to the issue of wages.

A liberal pricing policy will continue in Estonia, but at the same time control will be strengthened over pricing calculations made by producers who enjoy monopoly status.

A stabilization program for the economy has been completed so as to consolidate the monetary reform. The IMF has assisted us with our preparations for the monetary reform. I would like to voice gratitude to the fund's employees, as well as thank all other people in Estonia and abroad who have made considerable contributions in the name of the reform's success.

We are convinced that people will understand the inevitability of the steps taken and will take an understanding attitude to what comes next. We have to acknowledge frankly today that hardships and belt-tightening await us in the near future.

It has, however, never been a habit for Estonia to be in debt, because what is owed does not belong to you. If we demonstrate that we will do everything that depends on us here at home we will find understanding and support from other states and international organizations during this period of reorganization which is so difficult for us.

Esteemed compatriots! Soon you will be holding brand new Estonian kroons. Look at them. They carry a part of our culture, history, and definitely something else to all of us. It is more important, however, that we must build up our Estonia of tomorrow with our own currency, all of us together. Let us look after the kroons, let us be economical, let us attempt to preserve and consolidate the value which they contain at the moment.

Thank you very much.

Supreme Council Appoints New Defense Minister

*OW1806134992 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1259 GMT 18 Jun 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Supreme Council on its session Thursday [18 June] approved the appointment of deputy Ulo Uluots [name as received] to the post of the republic's minister of defense.

Ulo Uluots, b. Feb.4, 1938, in Johvi, graduate of mining chemistry faculty of Tallinn Polytechnic Institute, elected to the Estonian Supreme Council in 1990.

In presenting Mr Uluots as a candidate to the office of the minister of defense, Prime Minister Tiit Vahi characterized him as a "straightforward, energetic person", underlining that he enjoys the support of the Estonian Officers Union. Mr Vahi also noted that a number of Estonian armed formations require more discipline and order. In the opinion of the prime minister, Ulo Uluots is capable of enforcing order improving discipline in the Defense Forces.

Ulo Uluots' candidacy was opposed by the parliamentary defense commission, the majority of its members belonging to the parliamentary deputy faction "Isamaa Unendus" ("Unity of Fatherland"). In an interview to the BALTFAX correspondent, its member Illar Hallaste expressed a conviction that this appointment was likely to lead to further complications in the republic's internal political situation.

On the same day, the Estonian Supreme Council approved the appointment of Jean Kabin to the post of the republic's minister of civil engineering.

Jean Kabin, b. Feb 26, 1938, in Tartu, graduate of the building and construction faculty of Tallinn Polytechnic Institute. Since December 1990, Mr Kabin headed the board of directors of the "EKE" ("Estonian Country-Side Construction"). He is married and has five children.

Police, Home Guard Ready To Ensure Law, Order

*OW1806141792 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1258 GMT 18 Jun 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Marko Tibar, security chief of the Eesti Pank (Bank of Estonia), informs BALTFAX that his service, in cooperation with the Estonian police, Katseliit (Volunteer defense organization), and Kodukaitse (Home Guard organization) have made all the necessary practical preparations to insure law and order during the reform.

Mr Tibar says that a plan of joint actions of these services during the reform was coordinated in the course of recent sessions of the their representatives. [sentence as received]

In Mr Tibar's words, the kroons in cash will be brought to the exchange offices several hours prior to the beginning of the reform. In Tallinn, cash will be transported in special heavily guarded armored vehicles. In provinces, the cash carrying trucks will be secured by details of armed collectors, police, Kodukaitse and Katseliit. The rubles obtained by the offices in exchange for kroons will be transported back to the bank in the same fashion. During the money exchange period, towns and cities will be patrolled by special mobile police units capable of promptly reacting to any calls for help.

Bill on Bearing Arms To Be Considered

*OW1706181392 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1805 GMT 17 Jun 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian government has submitted a bill on keeping arms to the Estonian Defense Council. The Council includes head of the Estonian parliament Arnold Ruutel, head of the government Tiit Vahi and speaker of the parliament Ulo Nugis.

The bill provides for the right to keep gas and small arms for all Estonian citizens who are over 18, mentally healthy, have not been registered in narcological clinics or served terms in prisons. The Police Department will be in charge of issuing licenses for opening arms stores.

The bill bans keeping pistols and revolvers with caliber over 9 mm. The bill allows keeping home no more than 10 cartridges. Arms can be carried only by those required to do so by their jobs.

Plan To Remove 'Used' Nuclear Fuel Discussed

*LD1706182892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1[illegible]8 GMT 17 Jun 92*

[Text] Tallinn June 17 ETA-TASS—Rear-Admiral Aleksandr Olkhovnikov said in an interview for the press that he has a plan for moving the nuclear installation from the base in the Estonian city of Paldiski.

He said the used fuel should be placed in a special cover which in turn should be placed in a special container which would then be loaded onto a special railway car.

This first step will be followed by loading and transporting radioactive metal parts—pipes, support systems and like.

Olkhovnikov said it would take eighteen months to prepare the project. An estimated 25 million roubles will be needed to accomplish it. Preparations will be made by a research institute in St. Petersburg.

The rear-admiral said that the reactors in Paldiski had been in storage since January 1, 1990, but the used nuclear fuel has not been removed. The radiation diagram on the roof of the solid waste storage facility exceeds the regulation standard.

European Leaders Pledge Aid on Troop Withdrawal

OW1706143492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1352 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] European leaders meeting with the head of the Estonian parliament Arnold Ruutel during the recent Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro are said to have pledged assistance in internationalizing the issue of Russian troop withdrawals from the Baltic states.

Ruutel speaking at a news conference on Tuesday [16 June] said that the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, believed the presence of Russian troops in the Baltic states was of an immediate threat to their security and as such, their status was different from that in Germany. The Chancellor promised to raise the issue of troop withdrawals at the coming G-7 summit and to link the question of western aid with Russia's practical moves in that direction. Ruutel said that Germany had also agreed to finance the programmes for early troop withdrawals.

The possibility of raising the issue at the forthcoming Helsinki conference was also discussed with Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers and Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. The Estonian leader also held talks with the president of Iceland, Vigdis Finnbogadottir, to try to secure Iceland's help in resolving the issue.

Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt re-stated his intention to meet with the Balts before the Helsinki forum to discuss the international aspects of Russia's pullout from the region. Hungarian President Arpad Goncz had also expressed support to the leaders of the Baltic states.

Government Asks PRC for Aid in Rice, Sugar

OW1706191692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1804 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Trade Ministry decided Tuesday [16 June] to request China to provide Estonia with a large batch of rice in humanitarian aid.

During Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi's visit to China last May the Chinese government pledged to give to Estonia humanitarian aid worth $1 million. The Estonian side was offered to determine the character of supplies. The two sides discussed then possible supplies of sugar, rice and children's clothes.

Head of a Trade Ministry department Svetlana Terenyuk told BF [BALTFAX] that "2.600 tons [as received] of rice available for the allocated sum would be enough to meet a half-year demand of Estonia for that product. At the same time, 1.500 tons of sugar available for the sum make up only 3% of Estonia's annual demand".

Latvia

Military Structures Prepare for Possible Coup

LD1806230392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2005 GMT 18 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] All the Latvian military structures will be in a state of heightened combat readiness over the next few weeks, the chief of staff of the Latvian Ministry of Internal Affairs has stated. INTERFAX has indicated that reports have recently been appearing in the Latvian media that a coup d'etat may occur in the near future with the participation of the old structures.

Russian Army Deserters Arrive in Gulbene

LD1906094492 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0430 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpts] This week there is plenty of talk about the four citizens of the Russian Federation who fled from their duty station at the Aluksne military unit and turned to the Latvian authorities for help to return to their place of origin in Tyumen. At a news conference with the participation of these soldiers, the plot of the story was once again briefly retold by Juris Vectirans, head of the Latvian Security Service:

[Begin Vectirans recording] Our service has conducted an investigation and concluded that on 14 June at about 1500 four soldiers left military unit 21618, which is located in Aluksne Rayon at Traucini, and where there is a training center and a transfer center for the other Baltic countries. According to their statements, they were brought into Latvia illegally. To a certain extent our own operational information is the same. These boys are conscripts who have not taken an oath. They are privates Nikolay Kapranov, Vadim Galkin, Vladimir Averyanov, and Ilzur Kharitov. They are all from Tyumen District. They walked through the forests for about a day and a night and arrived at Gulbene, not far from Gulbene. They turned to a police patrol to take them to a local administrative organization. These Russian soldiers were conveyed to the National Service Administration in Gulbene Rayon. Those who subsequently began to deal with them were officials of both the Ministry of Defense and our service. Yesterday they were brought here to Riga, allowed to rest, given medical assistance, fed [words indistinct], and other matters concerned with the reception of unexpected guests.

The boys are very good, understanding people. They understand the situation. They are excited to some extent. [end recording] [passage omitted]

This testifies that Russia has violated the agreement not to supplement its contingent in Latvia. According to information at the disposal of the Latvian Home Guard, Russian troops who have served in Germany are also being brought into Latvia. [passage omitted]

News Conference Held

LD1806133292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0952 GMT 18 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Riga—In Latvia, people are indignant at Russia's silence about its rise in the number of the troops on Latvian territory. This has become known in connection with desertion of four draftees from a Russian military unit stationed in the Republic of Latvia.

On June 17, at the Supreme Soviet of Latvian Republic, a press conference took place in connection with desertion of four draftees of Russian Army from a military unit stationed near the city of Gulbene. Privates Nikolay Kapranov, Vladimir Averyanov, Ilzur Kharitov and Vadim Galkin, who came to serve in Latvia in the beginning of June from Tyumen region, have left the military infantry unit where they were taking the so-called course of a young soldier (a quarantine).

On June 15, they applied to a station of Latvian police, as they said that they were afraid of responsibility for their action before the chiefs of their unit. Near the entrance to the hall where the press conference was held Latvian Parliament's defense officers armed with submachine guns were present during its whole duration. Aleksendrs Doniks, a top-ranking official of the Latvian Defense Ministry, said that this incident has shown rude violations of international law by Russian Federation, as, despite the fact that units of Russian Army stationed in Latvia are being withdrawn in accordance with the communique of the inter-state talks between Latvia and Russia, the Russian Federation secretly and illegally brings its new soldiers without permission of the Latvian Government.

Latvia's pretensions were specified by Juris Dobelis, chairman of Latvian Republic's Parliament's Commission in Charge of Defense: The Latvian side has not received a single official report that the number of the troops is increased. Vladimir Zadubrovskiy, an officer of the press center of North-Western Army Group of Russian Army, told PF [POSTFACTUM] after the press conference that this was only a mistake on the side of Russian leaders who did not inform Latvian Government about bringing in the draftees.

Vladimir Zadubrovskiy also said that currently the private ranks of North-Western Army Group of Russian Army are staffed only by 40 per cent, very often officers have to keep guard. Vladimir Zadubrovskiy reckons that if Russian leaders did not commit this error, the case would not receive such a great response.

At the press conference, Privates Nikolay Kapranov, Vladimir Averyanov, Ilzur Kharitov and Vadim Galkin informed that they were sent to Latvia voluntarily, after signing a written report and receiving a written consent of their parents. They also said that they would like to continue their service at the territory of Russia. While answering the journalists's questions, they were not able to specify the exact reason of their escape. One of the draftees said that there was no pressure by the unit's chiefs nor second-year soldiers, whereas the other said that partial pressure did take place.

A written document was also made public at the press conference, in which the commander of the unit from which the escape was made, Lazebin, promises the soldiers that they will be sent to continue their service in Tyumen region. At present, the deserters are at the Latvian Parliament's defense officers' residence. The PF correspondent was not allowed to meet the deserters, citing as an excuse their unsatisfactory health state.

After the press conference was over, a number of Supreme Soviet's deputies, who were observing its course, told PF that the draftees' behavior during the press conference permits a supposition that before the press conference they had been given some narcotic drugs.

Former Soviet Troops Fight on Dniester Side

LD1606181192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0727 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga, June 16 TASS—Former Soviet military who served in Latvia are fighting on the side of the Dniester guardsmen in the conflict with Moldovan police, according to Latvian Deputy Foreign Minister Andris Staris. They are paid from 20 to 30 thousand roubles a month, he told the Latvian TV network late on Monday [15 June].

However, Staris denied reports Latvian women snipers are fighting on the Moldovan side.

Gorbunovs Returns from Rio; Holds Conference

LD1706150192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Returning from the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro today was Latvian Supreme Council Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs. This is what he said at a small news conference at Riga airport:

[Begin Gorbunovs recording] The Rio conference was the greatest meeting of state, national, and government leaders in the history of the world, with 174 states taking part. The main, perhaps the most obvious, thing was that these 174 states agreed in principle on a common foreign policy on environmental protection. I would compare this conference perhaps to the Helsinki conference and those processes that started with Helsinki; I think that this was the same kind of process, just in environmental protection and balanced relations in the long-term future. Relating to that, I think that this conference will have the significance that the Helsinki conference had in security matters.

Latvia, too, has signed the two Rio conventions. We have taken on a responsibility for the balanced development of the world because we thought that we were signing something that relates in the first instance to us. We, ourselves, must first observe these conventions, but in signing them we also undertook a certain responsibility for the future trend in the world's (?community) development. Latvia ranked there for a transitional period. And what does that mean? It means that, to a certain extent, we will have both a somewhat [word indistinct] program (?to realize) on a world scale, but on the other hand we also hope many programs will include help for our environmental problem in general. I would personally like to note with satisfaction that the Latvian delegation took an active part. Here I am thinking of Messrs. (?Celbe), Emsis, (?Olins) and other colleagues, and I had the opportunity in fact to continue that whole Green movement and the work, so much of which has been done here in Latvia, so that there was some participation in a treaty, participation in activity, for my colleagues, and this was a great satisfaction for me. [end recording]

Explosions Rock Ventspils Port; Motive Unknown

LD1806083992 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Several explosions have shattered the sea port Ventspils in western Latvia over the weekend, reports the daily DIENA. Early on Monday [15 June] the explosive device went off near the private store (?Vittoria) severely damaging the building, but no casualties were reported. The owner of the shop has denied any possible involvement of competitors. She had not received any threats before the explosion, police said.

On the same night a petrol bomb was thrown through a window into a currency exchange office. The fire was immediately put out and no property damage was recorded.

On Sunday night an unkown assailant threw two hand grenades into a warehouse. According to police the explosion caused minor damage and there were no casualties.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for any of the incidents.

Statistics Show Cost of Living Increase

LD1406183292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1525 GMT 14 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tallinn—According to Estonia's statistics department, the cost of living has increased by 10.67 times in the republic compared to May 1991. Compared to April 1992, the cost of living increased 5 times, with food prices now remaining at the April 1992 level and vegetable prices even decreasing 8 per cent in price. At the same time manufactured consumer goods increased 8 per cent in price, compared to May, while services increased 26 per cent in price, public utilities 43 per cent, consumer services 17 per cent and services provided by cultural establishments such as libraries, tourist agencies and so on, increased 39 per cent in price.

Lithuania

Russian Soldiers Termed 'Ethnic Minority'

LD1906045492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] High-ranking Russian officials have reacted negatively to the Lithuanian referendum on the withdrawal of the former Soviet Army from Lithuania this year and compensation for damage. Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the defense and security commission of the Russian parliament, does not consider the expression by the people in the referendum as a civilized method, and he calls the demands for the foreign army to leave Lithuanian territory a violation of the human rights of soldiers. According to Stepashin, the Russian Army in Lithuania should be treated as an ethnic minority and a subject of the universal declaration of human rights.

A statement from the information center of the Lithuanian Supreme Council says such a treatment would be an unheard of innovation in international law.

Landsbergis: 'Unheard of Oddity'

OW1906153992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1348 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "It's an unheard of oddity of international law," said Vytautas Landsbergis commenting on the assertions by Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the defense and security commission of Russian parliament, who argued that the Russian troops stationed in Lithuania should be regarded as a national minority and subject to the Human Rights Declaration.

In an official statement circulated in Vilnius Friday [19 June], Mr Landsbergis maintains that certain high standing officials in Russia are showing "negative disposition" toward the referendum recently staged in Lithuania which posed questions in regards to the withdrawal of the ex-Soviet troops in 1992 and on the reimbursement of damage inflicted by their presence in the republic. He alluded to Sergey Stepashin's remarks when he questioned the "civility" of the plebiscite and equated the pressure on the foreign army to pull out from the sovereign state of Lithuania with a violation of the Human Rights Declaration with respect to the military personnel.

In the meantime, the Lithuanian parliamentary speaker was complimentary about the observations made by the head of Russia's state delegation Viktor Isakov who conceded that Russia needs to assess the actual volume of damage and conclude whether it should be reimbursed by Russia alone.

Measure Adopted for New Elections 25 Oct

LD1906002292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Lithuanian parliament today adopted by an absolute majority a decision that obliges it to announce new elections on 25 October. The elections will take place according to a mixed system—half of the deputies will be elected according to the majority system and the other half by the proportional system.

Vagnorius Submits Bills to Expand Powers

LD1806215492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1847 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius June 18 TASS—"Chaos, confusion and disorder are now sweeping Lithuania," Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius warned a plenary meeting of the Lithuanian parliament today.

The plenary meeting was a result of an accord on the agenda reached by the two, almost equal, major factions for the first time in a month. Vagnorius submitted to the parliament three bills aimed to expand powers of the government for the duration of the economic and social reforms.

Vagnorius asked for more weight to the government in promulgating economic laws and the right to take tougher measures to raise the level of responsibility of officials.

Vagnorius Previews Effects of Economic Moves

OW1306173792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1607 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At yesterday's press-conference in Vilnius the Lithuanian Prime-Minister Gediminas Vagnorius announced the results of the on the whole completed first stage of the agricultural reform: Lithuania has no more collective farms.

Among the most important economic goals G. Vagnorius singled out a need for restructuring the taxation system to create favourable conditions for Lithuanian exports.

Lithuania's Prime Minister pointed out that in the current political situation his government has no chance to pursue an independent policy. The recent debates in parliament showed that the government cannot carry out reorganisation of some ministries or to sack those ministers who, in its judgement, should go.

Vagnorius doesn't expect Russia's decision to liberalise oil prices to seriously affect Lithuania's economy. He says Lithuania will raise prices for energy supplied to Byelarus, the Kaliningrad region, and the single power grid of the former USSR. In his opinion that should cover over half the cost increases for his republic.

G. Vagnorius mentioned some measures to recover the debt owed to Lithuanian farmers for milk and meat. In the past months the sum has run into nearly a billion roubles. G. Vagnorius stressed that to settle the issue the Lithuanian and Russian governments should agree on the way to settle accounts on the national level. At present the CIS countries owe Lithuania 7-8 bn [billion] roubles, whereas Lithuania's debt to them is substantially lower.

When asked if he was going to ask Lithuanian parliament for additional powers, G. Vagnorius replied, "First, I have little hope to get such powers, second, I have no intention to ask for them".

That was G. Vagnorius' first press-conference after Parliament has rejected his resignation this week. Under the law on government he can tend his resignation another time only after six months.